



***Podophyllum peltatum* – Mayapple**

COMMON NAME: Mayapple, wild mandrake

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Podophyllum peltatum* – from the resemblance of the leaf to a duck's foot and *peltatum* meaning a small shield because the leaf has its stem in the center.

FLOWER: waxy white about 2 inches in diameter with 6-9 petals.

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to early June

SIZE: 1 to 2 feet

BEHAVIOR: Mayapples can form large patches. Only plants with a stem dividing into two leaves will have a flower that forms in the axil between the leaves. Single or double, the leaves seem like umbrellas. The horizontal rhizomes are quite long, but otherwise easy to transplant.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Medium to moist, open or shady woods.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern half of the United States and southern Canada, west to Texas and Nebraska. Quite common in the southern 2/3 of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The flowers develop into an edible fleshy greenish fruit that turns golden when fully ripe. The leaves and roots, however, are poisonous. The whole plant goes dormant in summer.

SUGGESTED CARE: provide plenty of space because the plants will spread.

COMPANION PLANTS: wild leek, spring beauty, wild geranium, wild blue phlox, prairie trillium and other woodland spring flowers.