



***Dodecatheon meadia* – Shooting Star**

COMMON NAME: Shooting Star

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dodecatheon meadia* – The name comes from the Greek *dodeka* meaning 12 and *thios* for gods. Dr. Richard Mead (1673-1754) was an English physician and botanist.

FLOWER COLOR: white, pale pink, lavender

BLOOMING PERIOD: late April to early June

SIZE: 8 to 20 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: One or more stalks of flowers emerges from a basal rosette of leaves. An umbel of about 6 flowers dangle downward. Each flower has 5 petals that extend upward giving the shooting star shape.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Medium to dry woods with neutral soil and full or partial sun during the blooming period.

SPECIAL FEATURES: A delightful addition to any garden. Often grown from seed but it may be several years before it blooms. Root cuttings can be taken in the early spring. The vegetation dies back by mid-summer.

SUGGESTED CARE: Needs moisture during the growing season and dry conditions when dormant.

NATURAL RANGE: Pennsylvania to Georgia and Texas. In Wisconsin it is native only in the southern third of the state.

COMPANION PLANTS: yarrow, New England aster, spring beauty, wild geranium, old-field cinquefoil, downy phlox, pale spike lobelia, downy gentian, hoary puccoon.