



***Smilacina racemosa* – Solomon's Plume**

COMMON NAME: Solomon's Plume, Feathery Solomon's Seal, False Solomon's Seal

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Smilacina racemosa* – the name is a diminutive form of *smilax* used by some botanists for these plants and *racemosa* comes from Latin for a cluster of flowers each on its own central stalk. Many botanists use *Maianthemum* for this genus, meaning "May flower."

FLOWER: Plumes of creamy white blossoms at the ends of arching branches.

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to June

SIZE: 2 – 4 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Multiplies through extension of rootstock. Can be propagated by dividing the rootstock or from seed.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Has a wide tolerance of soils and light conditions, but flowers best on deep, humus-rich soil with sufficient moisture.

NATURAL RANGE: Nova Scotia to British Columbia, south to Georgia, Missouri and Arizona. It is found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The stems are not branched below the flowers and the leaves are alternate, elliptical and have pointed tips. The plumes of white blossoms give way to a cluster of green and purple dotted berries ripening to red in August – September that are attractive to birds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little care once it is established. Try to keep the soil somewhat moist. Do not divide for at least three years after planting.

COMPANION PLANTS: wild geranium, trillium, bedstraw, mayapple, woodland phlox, wild ginger and other woodland spring flowers.