



## ***Aralia racemosa - Spikenard***

COMMON NAME: Spikenard, American Spikenard

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aralia racemosa* – Aralia probably derived from the Iroquois language and *racemosa* because the flowers all appear on a single central stalk.

FLOWER: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: June to August

SIZE: 2 to 4 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Many tiny flowers are clustered in several rounded umbels. Large compound leaves are coarse and the leaflets are rounded, sharp pointed and toothed.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry to medium woods, rich woodlands and thickets. It wants light shade and moist, well-drained soil.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern United States, west to Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, but not Texas. Found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Great autumn interest when the leaves are golden and the berries turn dark purplish.

SUGGESTED CARE: Should be sheltered from strong, drying winds.

COMPANION PLANTS: columbine, green dragon, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger, wild geranium, Jacob's ladder, spiderwort, trillium, blue cohosh, Dutchman's breeches, shooting star.