



## ***Smilacina stellate* – Starry Solomon’s Plume**

COMMON NAME: Starry Solomon’s Plume, Starry False Solomon’s Seal

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Smilacina stellate* - the name is a diminutive form of *smilax* used by some botanists for these plants and *stellatum* is “starry”. Many botanists use *Maianthemum* for this genus, meaning “May flower.”

FLOWER: White. Several starry, 6-petaled flowers at the end of the stalk.

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to June

SIZE: 1 to 2 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Spreads readily by underground stolons and is thus a good slope holder. May form colonies and become aggressively weedy.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Not particular as it occurs all across the moisture gradient from calcareous springs to woodlands, prairies, and beach dunes. Grows well in full sun and in all but the densest shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Throughout Wisconsin. Eastern Canada to British Columbia, south to Virginia, Ohio Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona and southern California.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This plant is attractive throughout the growing season. The bright white flowers mature to dark reddish berries that are used by birds. Very regularly spaced alternate, clasping leaves with pointed tips give a formal texture to large masses of this plant.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well to establish new plants and then let them grow.

COMPANION PLANTS: These are numerous because of the several habitats where Starry Solomon’s Plume is found. Dry open woods: black oak, flowering spurge, common puccoon. Prairies: coreopsis, wild strawberry, wild bergamot, prairie phlox, spiderwort. Around springs: marsh marigold, turkscap lily, skunk cabbage.