



## ***Fragaria virginiana* – Wild Strawberry**

COMMON NAME: Wild Strawberry

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Fragaria virginiana* - the name comes from Latin *fraga* referring to the fragrance of the fruit.

FLOWER: white, 5-parted, clusters of blossoms on a stem

BLOOMING PERIOD: April to June

SIZE: low plant, 8 – 10 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Spreads by above ground runners (stolons). The leaves are compound with three sharply toothed leaflets.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Tolerant of a wide variety of soil moisture conditions, moist to dry. It grows in full sun or light shade. Look for wild strawberries on woodland edges, savannas, old fields, wet or dry prairies, rocky openings, roadsides, or along railroads.

NATURAL RANGE: From eastern Canada west to Alberta, south to Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma. It is found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This plant provides a good ground cover for problem areas. The delicious, edible fruit is quickly taken by chipmunks and birds. Indigenous peoples used the fruits for food and medicine for various stomach complaints. Leaves were also dried for use in tea to alleviate a variety of ailments. Of special note is that the cultivated strawberry was developed in France from a cross between this plant and a similar wild strawberry from Chile.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well to establish and then little care is needed.

COMPANION PLANTS: There are many companion plants because of the wide variety of habitats where wild strawberry occurs. In disturbed woods: arrow leaved aster, Pennsylvania sedge, common cinquefoil, black and choke cherry, black and white oak, blackberry. In richer woodlands: white ash, basswood, red oak, elm, wild geranium, Virginia creeper, starry Solomon's plume. In prairies: sky blue aster, pasture rose, starry Solomon's plume, golden Alexanders. In old fields: yarrow, common cinquefoil, black-eyed Susan. In boggy areas: marsh shield fern, boneset, royal fern, grass-leaved and swamp goldenrods, quaking aspen, black chokeberry.