

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Jeffersonia diphylla* - Twinleaf**

COMMON NAME: Twinleaf

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Jeffersonia diphylla* – named in honor of Thomas Jefferson by the early botanist John Bartram. *Diphylla* means "two-leaved"

FLOWER: White, very short lived.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late April

SIZE: 9 to 18 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Spreads by seed and seedling take many years to mature.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Requires humus-rich woodland soil with adequate moisture holding ability and light to moderate shade.

NATURAL RANGE: New York and southern Ontario south to Alabama and west to the very southern parts of Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa. It is rare in our area.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Twinleaf has long stemmed blue green leaves that are deeply divided into 2 lobes that are mirror images of each other, hence the name. There is a single white cup-shaped flower with 8 petals at the top of a leafless stalk. At the time of flowering the plant may be only 8 or 9 inches tall, but it continues to grow and may reach 18 inches when the fruit ripens. This fruit is a curious cup-like pod with a cap.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well during the first season and have lots of patience. It seems to thrive on north facing slopes that are cooler and moister.

COMPANION PLANTS: Sugar maple, white ash, basswood, hop hornbeam, and red oak woods, white baneberry, spring beauty, toothwort, Dutchman's breeches, white trout lily, bloodroot, Solomon's plume, zigzag goldenrod