

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



## ***Actaea pachypoda* – White Baneberry**

COMMON NAME: White Baneberry, Doll's Eyes

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Actaea pachypoda*, *actaea alba*. The name comes from the ancient Greek word for "elderberry" and *pachypoda* meaning "thick stalk". *Alba*, of course, means "white".

FLOWER: Foamy, creamy-white flowers

BLOOMING PERIOD: May-June. White baneberry blooms a bit later than the red baneberry.

SIZE: 1 ½ to 2 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Compound leaves with a stalk having a cluster of white flowers. Propagation is by seeds that are slow to germinate.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Medium woods in loamy soils, part to full shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Canada to the southern states and west to Oklahoma. Grows in most of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The most noticeable feature is the open cluster of shiny white fruit that develops in mid summer. Each berry has a dark spot and thus resembles an eye of an old-fashioned china doll. The berries are on a very thick pink to red stalk. The berries are poisonous which is probably the origin of "baneberry".

SUGGESTED CARE: Choose a site with proper shade, good soil and sufficient moisture. Try not to disturb.

COMPANION PLANTS: Mixed hardwoods for the upper story, rattlesnake fern and spring ephemerals like blue cohosh, spring beauty, toothwort, wild geranium and hepatica.

SPECIAL NOTE: This plant is not suitable where young children might be tempted to try the poisonous berries.