

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Asarum canadense* – Wild Ginger**

COMMON NAME: Wild Ginger

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Asarum canadense*

FLOWER: Maroon or purple brown with three long, narrow sepal lobes that spread backward.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late April, May

SIZE: 4-6 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Spreads by creeping rhizomes and can form large colonies

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Wet to medium woods and forests.

NATURAL RANGE: Canada south to the Carolinas and west to Kansas. Wild ginger is very common in Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This is a lovely plant with downy heart-shaped leaves that are usually in pairs. The flowers are close to the ground and often not seen until a leaf is lifted. The roots smell similar to ginger and can be steeped to make a ginger tasting tea. Native Americans used the roots in a variety of medicinal ways, especially for birth control.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easily transplanted by lifting and then cutting the rhizomes so that there are 6-8 sections (or even fewer). Water if the leaves look wilted.

COMPANION PLANTS: Spring beauty, wild geranium, wild blue phlox, Mayapple.