



***Allium tricoccum* - Wild Leek**

COMMON NAME: Wild leek, ramp

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Allium tricoccum* – comes from Latin where *allium* is the onion family and *tricoccum* refers to the 3-parted seed.

FLOWER: White – often missed because they bloom well after the spring flowers are finished.

BLOOMING PERIOD: mid to late June or even later

SIZE: Neither the leaves nor flowers exceed one foot in heights.

BEHAVIOR: Durable! This plant adapts to life under the trees by producing leaves in early spring before the trees leaf out. The leaves die back by early June and then it flowers in summer.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: It is very shade tolerant, but more particular about soil moisture than some woodland flowers. It likes fairly wet to moderately wet soils and will not spread well on drier sites.

NATURAL RANGE: New Brunswick west to southern Ontario, Manitoba, the Dakotas and south to Maryland and the mountains of Tennessee and Georgia. It is found throughout Wisconsin, but the slightly different, later blooming, specie* is more common in the north.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The leaves are somewhat similar to those of tulips, but smaller and less coarse. These leaves are often gathered for an early spring edible green with a strong onion/garlic flavor. The tiny bulbs are also edible. In the southern mountains “ramp season” has had a long tradition, but nowadays there is great concern for the potential to overharvest.

SUGGESTED CARE: Wild leeks are easily transplanted and then should be watered well to establish. After that little care is needed.

COMPANION PLANTS: Trout lily, Dutchman’s breeches, spring beauty, trout lily, wild geranium, hepatica, sweet cicily, Mayapple, Solomon’s seal, bloodroot and other spring flowers common in maple, basswood, red and white oak woods.

* The later blooming wild leek has a broader leaf and a reddish flower stem.