

American bellflower *Campanulastrum americanum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Campanulales

Family: Campanulaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

American bellflower is an annual or biennial herb and contains a milky sap. The erect stem may be branched. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each simple, lance-shaped leaf is toothed. The leaf may be hairy or smooth. A single leaf may be six inches long and two inches wide. The five-petaled, pale-blue flowers are flat and have a lighter ring at the center. The style (part of the female reproductive structures) is very long and curved. Flowers develop in a cluster on a stalk that may be one and one-half feet long. The fruit is a club-shaped capsule, about one-half inch long, containing flat, brown seeds. American bellflower may attain a height of one and one-half to six feet.

BEHAVIORS

American bellflower may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in woods, thickets and on stream banks. Flowers are produced from June through October. White-tailed deer may eat the leaves of this plant.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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