

## cardinal-flower *Lobelia cardinalis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Campanulales

Family: Campanulaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The cardinal-flower has bright red, two-lipped flowers that may be up to two inches long. The upper lip has two lobes while the lower lip has three lobes. This plant is a perennial herb whose stems may grow to six feet tall. Stems are usually hairy and have milky sap. The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Leaves are lance-shaped, usually toothed and hairy. Leaves may be eight inches long and up to two and one-half inches wide. Fruits are spherical capsules that may be one-half inch wide. The tiny, warty seeds are yellow-brown.

### BEHAVIORS

The cardinal-flower grows in marshes, wet meadows, wet prairies and along streams, ponds and lakes. It blooms from July through October.

### HABITATS

#### Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams; marshes; wet prairies and fens

#### Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

#### Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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