

early meadow rue *Thalictrum dioicum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Ranunculales

Family: Ranunculaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Early meadow rue has alternate, compound leaves, each up to one foot long. Plants produce either male or female flowers. The flowers develop in clusters at the stem tip, and they droop. There are no petals. The sepals are green-white to purple-brown. The flowers are pollinated by wind. A single plant may be up to two and one-half feet tall. The fruits are dry, hard and one-seeded.

BEHAVIORS

Early meadow rue grows in rich woods and prairies statewide. Flowering occurs from April through May. Some moth larvae feed on the leaves and stems.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie

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