

green dragon *Arisaema dracontium*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Liliopsida

Order: Arales

Family: Araceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The green dragon is a perennial plant that grows from an underground corm. It does not have leaf-bearing stems. The one leaf present grows from the base and is divided into as many as 17 smooth leaflets. Flowers are clustered together at the base of a cylindrical column, called a spadix, that is extended into a taillike yellow appendage, up to seven inches long. The spadix is enveloped in a protective green sheath. Male and female flowers are sometimes on the same plant and sometimes on separate plants. No petals are present on the flower. The fruit is a red-orange berry. Berries are clustered in thick heads.

BEHAVIORS

The green dragon may be found statewide in Illinois growing in woods. It flowers from mid-April to late May.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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