

Jack-in-the-pulpit *Arisaema triphyllum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Liliopsida

Order: Arales

Family: Araceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The Jack-in-the-pulpit, or Indian turnip, is a perennial plant that grows from an underground corm. It does not have leaf-bearing stems. The one or two leaves present grow from the base of the plant and may reach more than one foot tall. Each leaf is divided into three leaflets that are smooth and without teeth around the edges. The flowers lack petals and are clustered together at the base of a cylindrical column, called a spadix. The spadix is covered by a leaflike structure that encircles it and arches over the top. This structure, called a spathe, may be green, purple or purple striped. This arrangement is how the common name of the plant was derived (the “Jack” or preacher in his covered pulpit). The fruit is a red berry.

BEHAVIORS

The Jack-in-the-pulpit may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in woods. The Jack-in-the-pulpit flowers in April and 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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