

shooting-star *Dodecatheon meadia*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Primulales

Family: Primulaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Shooting-star is a perennial herb. The leaves of this plant grow in a rosette. Leaves have red coloration at their base. Each leaf is oblong and smooth. Flowers may be purple, white, pink or some combination of those colors. The five petals are swept backward, while the stamens come together to form a pointed beak. Few to several flowers develop in a cluster at the tip of a stalk. Each flower may be one and one-third inches long. The fruit is a capsule, up to three-fourths inch long, that splits into five parts at the tip. Shooting-star may attain a height of one to two feet.

BEHAVIORS

Shooting-star may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in moist prairies, bluffs and woods. Flowers are produced from April through June.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie

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