

# skunk cabbage

## *Symplocarpus foetidus*

### FEATURES

The skunk cabbage is a perennial herb. It has no stems. The smooth leaves, which may be up to two and one-half feet long and nearly one foot wide, are produced after flowering. The flowers are located close to the ground on a thickened structure that is surrounded by a purple to green sheath. The fruits are berries.

### BEHAVIORS

The skunk cabbage grows in fens and other areas with springs. This plant flowers from March through May.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Liliopsida  
Order: Arales  
Family: Araceae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE







young plants









## **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

## **Woodland Habitats**

upland deciduous forests

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none