

spring cress *Cardamine bulbosa*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Capparales

Family: Brassicaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Spring cress is a perennial plant that grows from a rootlike bulb. Its stem is upright, usually without branches and attaining a height of about 18 inches. The leaves at its base are oval to round, up to one and one-half inches long and have a long stalk. The leaves on the stem are alternate, toothed, oblong, up to two inches long and do not have a stalk. Flowers are arranged on a stalk at the tip of the stem. Each flower has four white petals and is about one-half inch wide. The fruit is a pod that contains several seeds.

BEHAVIORS

Spring cress may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in wet soil in woods and along streams. Flowers are present from March through June.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2017. Biodiversity of Illinois.