

# wild ginger

## *Asarum canadense*

### FEATURES

Wild ginger is a perennial plant that grows from underground stems and fleshy roots. No above-ground stems are present. There are usually two, oppositely arranged leaves. The leaf is heart-shaped, hairy, about six inches long and on a hairy stalk. The single flower arises from the leaf axil. There are no petals, but the three, maroon sepals appear petallike. The sepals are united at the base, and the outer tips usually point downward. The fruit is a spherical capsule, about one-third inch in diameter.

### BEHAVIORS

Wild ginger may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich woods. Wild ginger flowers from April through May. When disturbed, its underground stem gives off the aroma of ginger.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Aristolochiales  
Family: Aristolochiaceae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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leaves



**Aquatic Habitats**

none

**Woodland Habitats**

upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none