

Stinging Nettle

Urtica dioica ssp. *holosericea*

Nettle Family, *Urticaceae*



This mid to late summer blooming perennial will be easily identified after the first encounter. But it is not the flowers that will grab your attention. They are tiny and mostly indistinguishable clusters growing above the lance shaped leaves. It is the stinging hairs on the toothed leaves and stems that will remind you to give this common, damp area plant a bit of respectful distance. The hairs contain a skin reactive poison that can cause severe stinging which may last for hours.

Red Admiral and West Coast Lady butterflies use species of *Urtica* as a larval food plant. In a habitat garden this may be a plant to consider.

Jun-Sep • Ma, So, Na, Me

1-2 m, 3-7 ft



Stinging Nettle

Wild Ginger

Asarum caudatum

Pipevine Family, *Aristolochiaceae*



The flower of this low growing native smells gingery and is found in deep wood habitats. Wild Ginger has no true petals, but three beautiful deep maroon sepals that are hidden under heart shaped leaves with pointed ends.

Wild Ginger is a slow growing ground cover for use in deep shade to part sun, with some supplemental summer water required. The exotic flowers are pollinated by slugs and ants serving as assistants in the dispersal of this plant's seeds.



Wild Ginger

May-Jul • Ma, So, Na, Me
3-15 cm, 1-6 in

Fringe Cups

Tellima grandiflora

Saxifrage Family, *Saxifragaceae*



This beautiful plant is a delight to find in shaded woods. Slender wands of cuplike flowers with short green to rose petals that are fringed on the tips, attract your attention above the rich green, maple like foliage. The unusual petals change from green to cream, to deep pink or brown red as they age.

In the garden, Fringe Cups favor shade and water.

Apr–Jun • Ma, So, Na, Me
30–90 cm, 1–3 ft

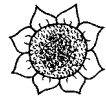


Fringe Cups

Woolly Marbles

Psilocarphus tenellus var. *tenellus*

Sunflower Family, *Asteraceae*



The greenish gray blooms of this low growing, prostrate annual appear in April. The native Woolly Marbles is very common on dry slopes with generally disturbed soil, rarely vernal pools. It grows in low clumps with its tiny, cobwebby, woolly balls. The leaves are small, linear. A tiny plant that is worth a closer look.

Apr–June • Ma, So, Na, Me
3–10 cm, 1–4 in



Woolly Marbles