

**Indian cucumber-root  
(*Medea/a virginiana*)**

Habitat: moist woods

Height: approximately 3' tall

Leaves: 1 or 2 whorls of 5-8 leaves

Flower: small, appears above top whorl, may be 2-3 flowers per plant

Flower color: yellowish

Flower time: late May – early June

Fruit: a dark purple or black berry

Distinguishing characteristics:  
whorls of usually 5-8 leaves, stem usually fuzzy and wiry close to ground



Flowers hang atop whorl



Whorl may have 5-8 leaves



Berries atop whorl



Flower arises from top whorl

Potential Look-alike

**Star Flower (*Trientalis borealis*)**

Similar whorl of leaves but no top whorl present.

Habitat: frequent in moist woods

Height: approximately 4-8 inches

Leaves: whorls of 5-10 leaves, leaves are narrow, unequal sized

Flower: 1-4 per plant, petals ½" across

Flower color: white

Flower time: May – June

Fruit: small, dry brown globular capsule

Distinguishing characteristics: distinctive flowers,  
features based on sevens: 7 leaves, 7 petals, and 7 sepals



Flowering plant



Flower close-up

**Trillium (*Trillium spp.*)**

Habitat: moist woods  
 Height: 1 - 1.5 ft, except for Snow Trillium (6 in.)  
 Leaves: 3 in a whorl  
 Flower: found at the center of the whorl of leaves  
 Flower color: white, maroon, pink, yellow, or green  
 Flower time: April - May  
 Fruit: a berry  
 Distinguishing characteristics: whorl of 3 leaves, flower is made of 3 petals



Large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) white or maroon



Leaves form an equilateral triangle shape



1, 2, and 3 leaved white trillium



Fruit



Purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*) – maroon flower, leaves are stalk-less

\* Note flowers/fruit at top of plant, whorl of 3 leaves



Painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*) – white with pink center, leaves are on petioles that come out of the center

**Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)**

Habitat: common in moist woods, swamps, bogs  
 Height: approximately 3 feet  
 Leaves: 3 leaflets  
 Flower color: white, green, or maroon, streaked  
 Flower time: late April - June  
 Fruit: a cluster of red berries  
 Distinguishing characteristics: distinct flower shape



Entire plant showing leaves



Flower



Fruit



More prominent mid-vein

\*Note leaves in 3 may resemble trillium, especially if no flowers are obvious. Jack-in-the-pulpit will have one prominent mid-vein. Trillium has less obvious mid-vein and rounder leaves.

Potential look-alike Trillium and Jack-in-the-Pulpit:

**Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)**

Also has whorled leaves, but has more leaflets. Usually branched into 2 leaves. Distinct flower.

