



Wild Ginger

Asarum canadense

Growing Information

- Plant Type: Perennial
- Sunlight: Shade
- Soils: Dry to Moist
- Bloom Time: Inconspicuous, burgundy-colored flowers in May, June
- Size: 1-2 feet in height, spreads by rhizomes

Also called American Ginger, *Asarum canadense* differs from the non-native European Ginger in that its foliage is dull and the non-native's foliage is shiny. Flower are hidden beneath the leaves, almost laying on the ground.

Garden Companions

Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

Nature Benefits

- Seeds have an elaiosome, a sticky residue attractive to ants that help with seed dispersal.
- Flowers have scent of carrion to attract tiny flies who are responsible for pollination of the ginger flowers.
- Serves as an alternate host plant for the caterpillar of the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly.

Natural Habitat

Occurs in shady deciduous forests.