



Photo credit: Joe Waters

Black Cohosh / Bugbane

Actaea racemosa

Growing Information

- Plant Type: Perennial
- Sunlight: Partial sun, shade
- Soils: Moist, average
- Bloom Time: White spike flowers in June, July, August
- Size: 4-5ft in height; 2-3ft spread

Also known as black snakeroot with striking tall flower spikes and sharply divided foliage. It is an excellent choice for massing in a naturalistic garden. Flowering commences as spring wildflowers fade. Deer and rabbit resistant. Formerly *Cimicifuga racemosa*. Extremely rare in the wild in Massachusetts and some populations are introduced as escapes from gardens. Not found naturally on Cape Cod. Native to states west and south in the eastern U.S.

Garden Companions

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)

Nature Benefits

- Host plant for the Spring Azure.
- Attractive to pollinators.

Natural Habitat

Occurs in forest edges and shady upland woods.

