

spring beauty *Claytonia virginica*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Portulacaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS Common, native

FEATURES

The spring beauty is a perennial plant that grows from tuberous roots. Its upright, weak stems may grow to six inches long. The two leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. Each leaf is without teeth and may be up to six inches long and one-half inch wide. Several flowers may be found in a cluster at the tip of the stem. Each flower may be one inch wide. The five-petaled flower is white or pink. The fruit is a nearly spherical capsule, about one-fourth inch in diameter, that contains three to six flat seeds.

BEHAVIORS

The spring beauty may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich, moist woods. The spring beauty flowers from March through May. It is probably the most common wildflower in Illinois.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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