

toothwort *Dentaria laciniata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Capparales

Family: Brassicaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Toothwort, also known as pepper-root or pennywort, grows to about one foot in height. Leaves develop at the base of the plant as well as in a whorl of three below the flowers. The leaves are three-lobed and toothed. Flowers are up to three-fourths inch long and develop in clusters at the stem tip. There are four petals per flower, and they may be white, pale lavender or pink. The fruit is long (up to one and one-half inches) and slender, with a single row of seeds.

BEHAVIORS

Flowering occurs from late February through May in woodlands throughout the state. Toothwort is one of the first wildflowers to bloom each year in Illinois.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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