

Woodland Wildflowers in Your Yard



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Native woodland wildflowers generally bloom in the spring. They are perennials that usually return year after year. Some go dormant and disappear completely by June while the leaves of others stay green until fall. They are wonderful additions to shady yards where grass has trouble growing. Because these plants are native and adapted to local conditions, they require less pesticide, fertilizer, and water use.

They also provide food and other resources to a variety of native fauna, including many pollinators. They can be planted in many combinations, such as with grass and ornamental plants. Annual plants like ornamental impatiens often go particularly well with woodland plants such as **bluebells**, which go dormant early. The following photos from Urbana locations illustrate this point.



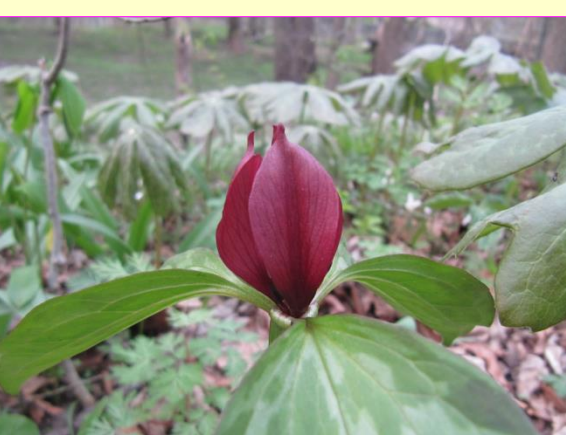
Mayapple



Bluebell



Bluebell



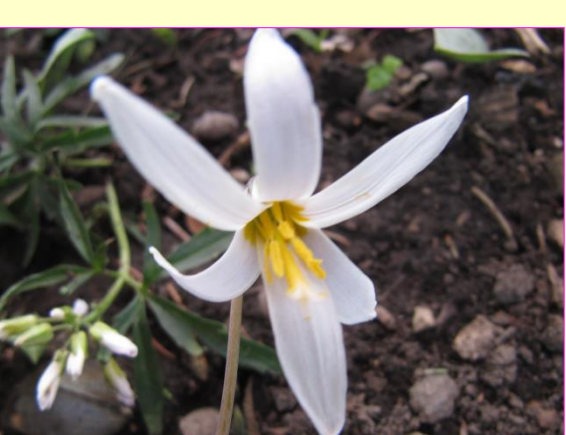
Trillium recurvatum



Jack-in-the-Pulpit



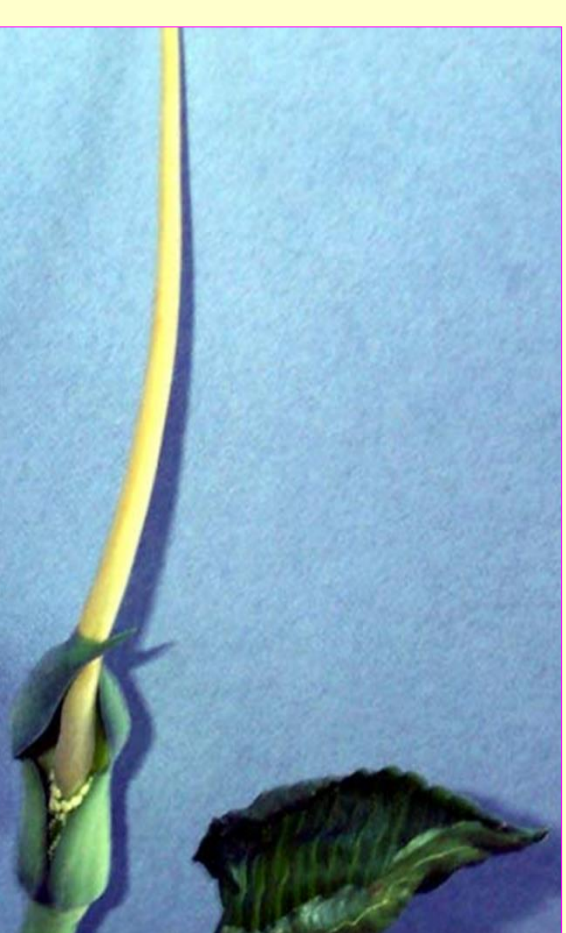
Jack-in-the-Pulpit



Troutlily



Bellwort



Green Dragon



False Solomon's Seal



False Solomon's Seal



Dogtooth Violet



Bloodroot



Wild Geranium



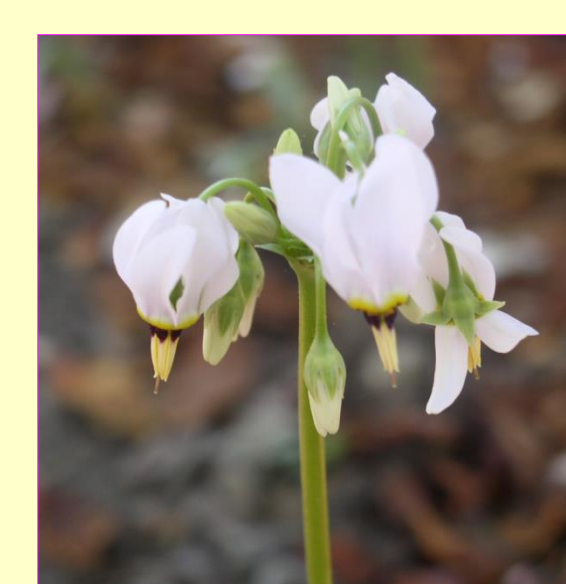
True Solomon's Seal



True Solomon's Seal



Spring Beauty



Shooting Star



Wild Ginger



The progression of wildflowers from early March through June is shown in these three photos of the same yard. **Bloodroot** (photo 1) is among the earliest-blooming wildflowers and goes well with tulips and daffodils. **Bluebells** and **celandine poppy** (2) bloom next. **Wild geraniums** (3), **columbine**, and a variety of other species bloom through May.



Bloodroot covers this shady yard. The leaves will soon unfurl and the buds will open. **Bloodroot** stays green until fall.



Spring beauty frequently carpets areas under trees where grass is sparse. It is dormant by the end of May, allowing mowing to proceed. Leaves appear again in the fall. Over 50 species of bees visit these flowers for pollen and nectar.



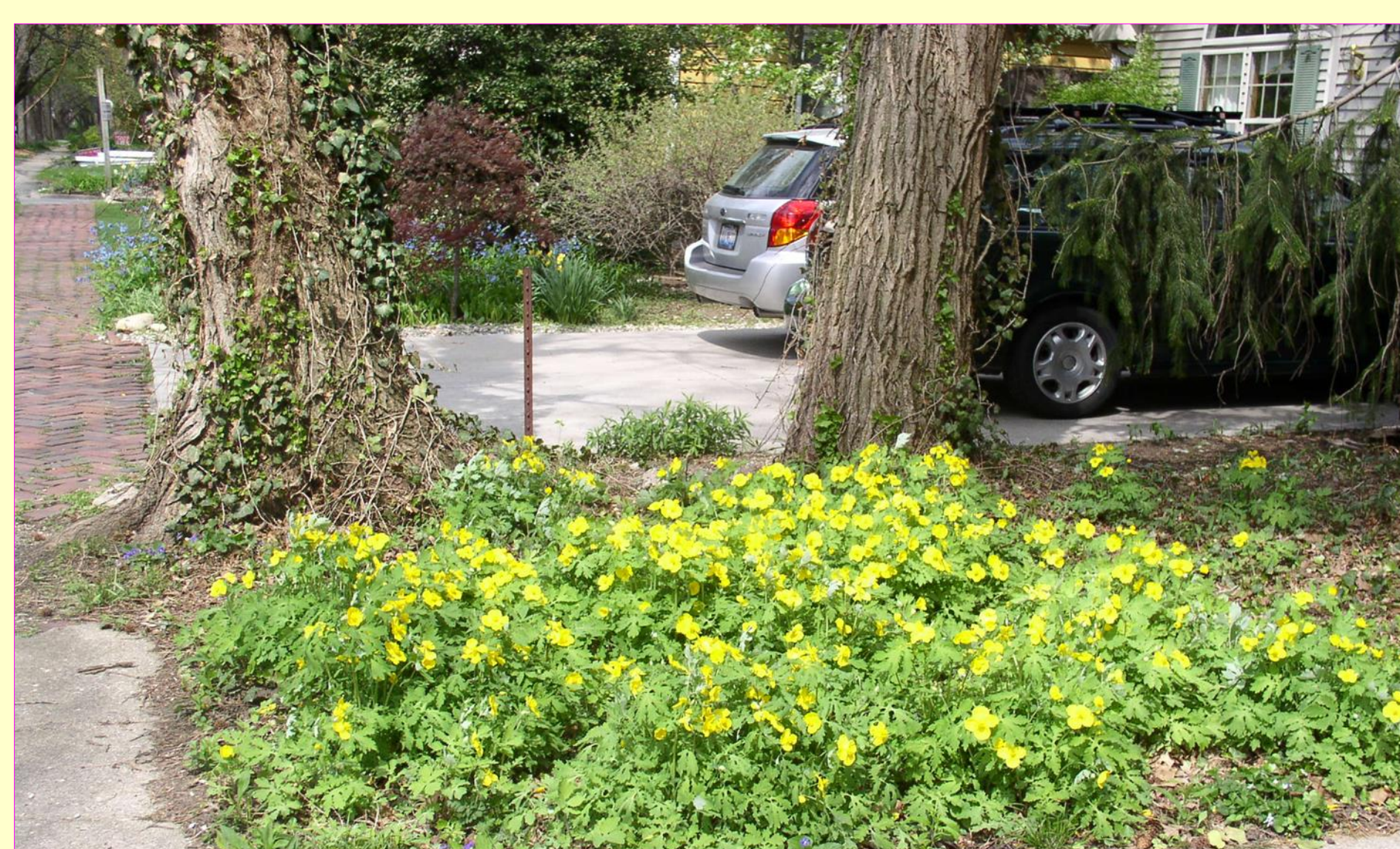
Bluebells can also occupy shady spaces between grass clumps. They provide a blue and green panorama into May. By late June they are usually completely dormant, allowing normal mowing (inset). **Bluebells** are used by several spring pollinators.



Mayapples spread by underground stems called rhizomes and typically form clusters. They have large white flowers under their umbrella-shaped leaves. Their seeds are in plum-sized berries, which turn yellow when ripe.



Many woodland wildflowers are on stalks which rise above lower vegetation. Here, **mayapples** and **Trillium** co-exist with ornamental groundcover. Other examples include **Solomon's seal**, **bluebells**, and **jack-in-the-pulpit**.



Celandine poppy can form dense patches. This plot has sustained itself for over 25 years with little maintenance in an Urbana yard. This plant stays green until fall and sometimes has blooms in September.



Wild geranium blooms through May, remaining green until fall. Sporadic blooms are often visible in September.



This woodland wildflower planting is on the University of Illinois campus. In bloom are **celandine poppy**, **Trillium recurvatum**, **bluebell**, **Jacob's ladder**, **mayapple**, and some violets.