

***Smilacina racemosa*, Western Solomon's Seal**

General Botanical Characteristics

Smilacina racemosa is a tall herbaceous perennial plant growing from thick, whitish, branching rhizomes. It is often found in dense clusters. The leafy, arching stems grow to about 3' tall. The leaves are smooth-edged, broad and elliptical, and are borne alternately along the stem in two rows. They are distinctly parallel-veined. The flowers are small and densely clustered, white, and strongly perfumed. The berries are small (5mm-7 mm diameter) and densely clustered. They are bright red when ripe.



Seasonal Development

Western Solon's Seal produces berries from July to August.



Distribution/Habitat

Western Solomon's Seal generally is an indicator of moist environments. It also occurs on rocky, well-drained hillsides. It is common in thickets and open forests on gently sloping benches adjacent to streams. Soils are usually shallow and derived from calcareous and non-calcareous parent materials. Soil texture ranges from gravelly loams to silt and sandy loams.

Interesting Facts

- Native people ate the berries and the rhizomes

References

http://www.ionxchange.com/order_pages/wildflowers/s/smilacina_racemosa.htm

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/eao/culres/ethbot/q-s/Smilacina.htm>

Photos from:

http://www.usi.edu/science/biology/TwinSwamps/Smilacina_racemosa.htm

<http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/nature/plants/3petal/lily/fss.htm>