

Giant Solomon's Seal



This beauty blooms in May and June with small white flowers, usually in pairs, that dangle beneath the leaves. Their sweet perfume is, to our nose, a cross between Lilies and Hyacinths and is strongest on warm, still evenings. Young shoots can be boiled for 10 minutes and served like asparagus. Whole shoots can be cut up and put into a salad. The berries, if eaten are poisonous. The root is rhizomatous but non-colonizing.

Polygonatum biflorum var. commutatum

- **Use:** Giant Solomon's Seal is a native herbaceous perennial wildflower found in moist forested areas and road banks in the eastern U.S.A. and Canada. As its common name suggests, this is a large Solomon Seal reaching heights of 3 to 5, occasionally 7 feet. Use it in a rain, woodland or cottage garden, the back of a border, or let it naturalize in your yard. Just make sure it has plenty of room as this plant larger than other Solomon seals. They combine readily with a wide range of others shade lovers, including Ferns, Hostas, Astilbe, Heuchera, and Forget Me Nots.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Provide a shady spot with moisture-retentive soil, and you can count on many years of this elegant perennial. NO RED CLAY.
- **Growth:** Grows 3-6' tall and 3' wide. Spreads by rhizomes
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-7/8; Perennial (Ideally zone 7 and further North. (Can make it in our zone 8 if given the perfect location where they stay cooler in summer.)
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Conspicuously parallel-veined, alternate leaves (to 7" long). Starchy, edible rhizomes were formerly used by early Americans as a potato-like food.
- **Flower:** Clusters in leaf axils of 2-10 bell shaped greenish white flowers bloom May-June. Flowers have a sweet, lily-like fragrance. Flowers bloom late spring to early summer (May-June). Flowers are followed by attractive pendulous blue-black berries (each 1/4" diameter) in fall which hang downward from the leaf axils. Attracts pollinators, butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds

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