

A Sampling of Spring Wildflowers on Cape Ann

Presentation by Holly Tanguay

Cape Ann Trail Stewards Annual Meeting 2020

April

Trailing Arbutus

Epigaea repens; Heath Family

- In the 1800's Trailing Arbutus was harvested rampantly each spring
- Now rare, arbutus is protected in Massachusetts



Hobblebush

Viburnum lantanoides, Elderberry family

- Branches reroot forming tripping hazards or “hobbles.”
- The outer showy flowers around each cluster are sterile; the fruits are edible

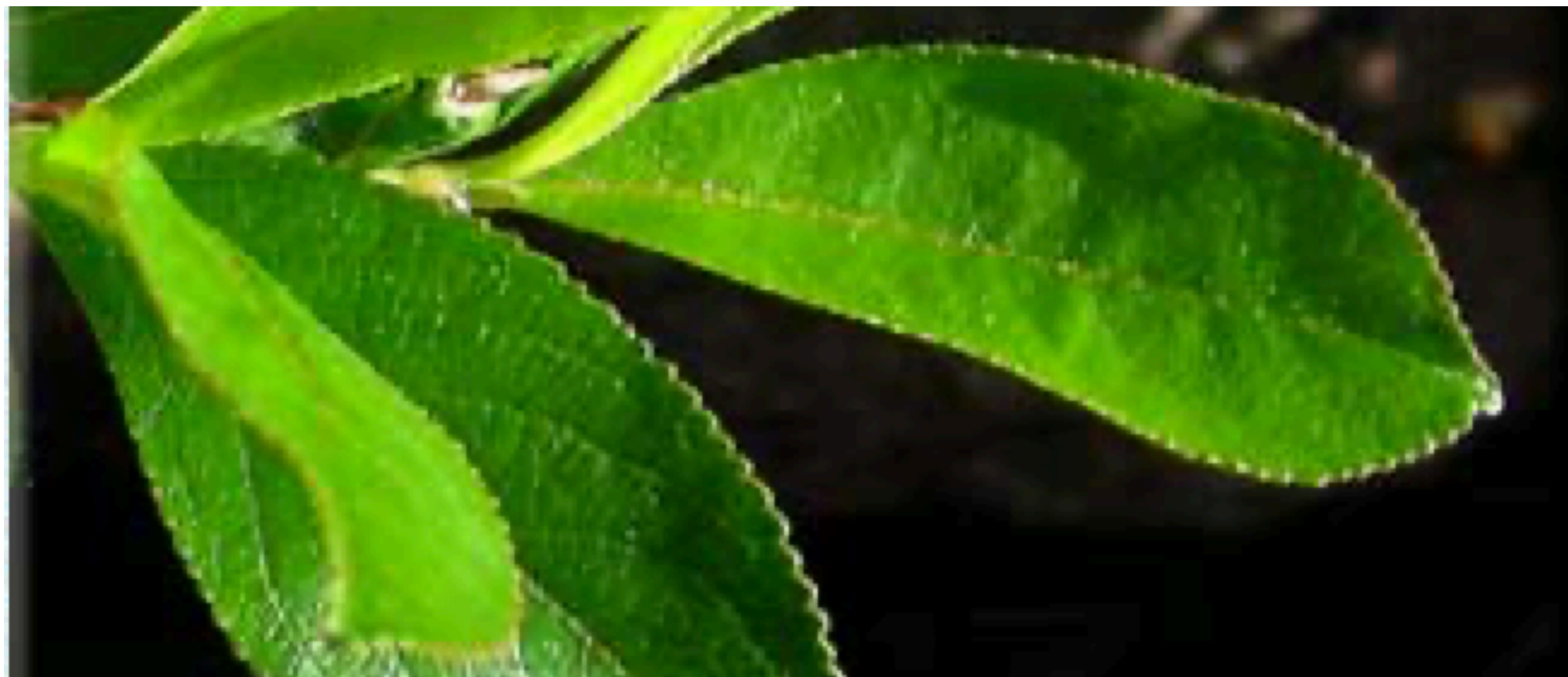


May

Swamp Shadbush

Amelanchier canadensis; Rose Family

- At least 11 common names including Serviceberry, Juneberry and Saskatoon
- The berries are the main ingredient in pemmican.



Wild Sarsaparilla

Aralia nudicaulis; Ginseng family

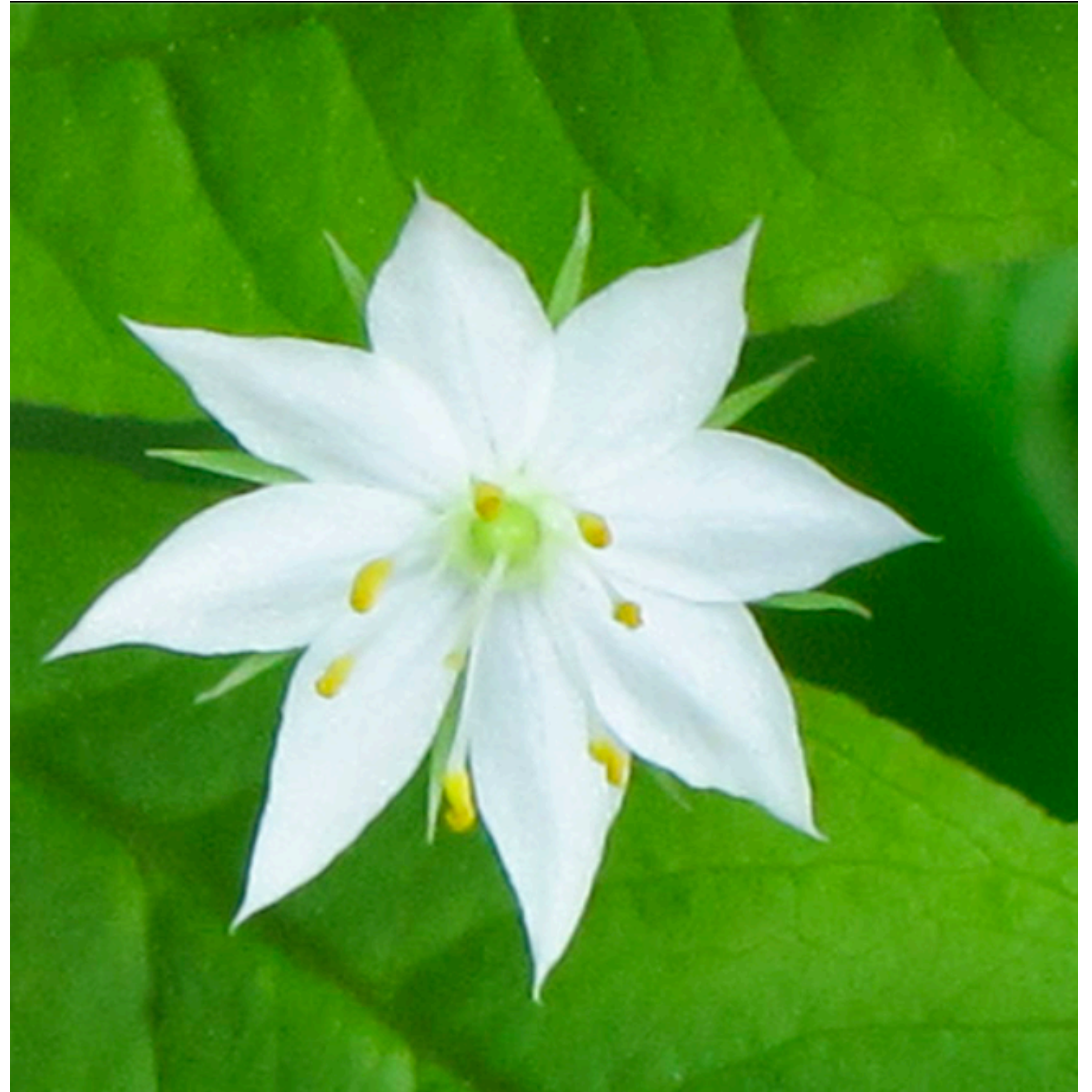
- The reddish green early leaves are easily mistaken for poison ivy
- Substituted for Central American Sarsaparilla in making root beer



Starflower

Lysimachia borealis; Myrsine family

- One of few flowers usually with 7 petals, but number can vary from 5 to 10
- Veins depart from a central vein unlike parallel veins of Indian Cucumber Root



Indian Cucumber Root

Medeola virginiana; Lily family

- Resembles starflower before the second tier of leaves appears
- Edible rhizome (root) was used as food by Native Americans



Pink Lady Slipper

Cypripedium acaule; Orchid family

- Deeply pleated basal leaves with prominent parallel veins
- Fragrant flowers attract bees as pollinators but supply no nectar

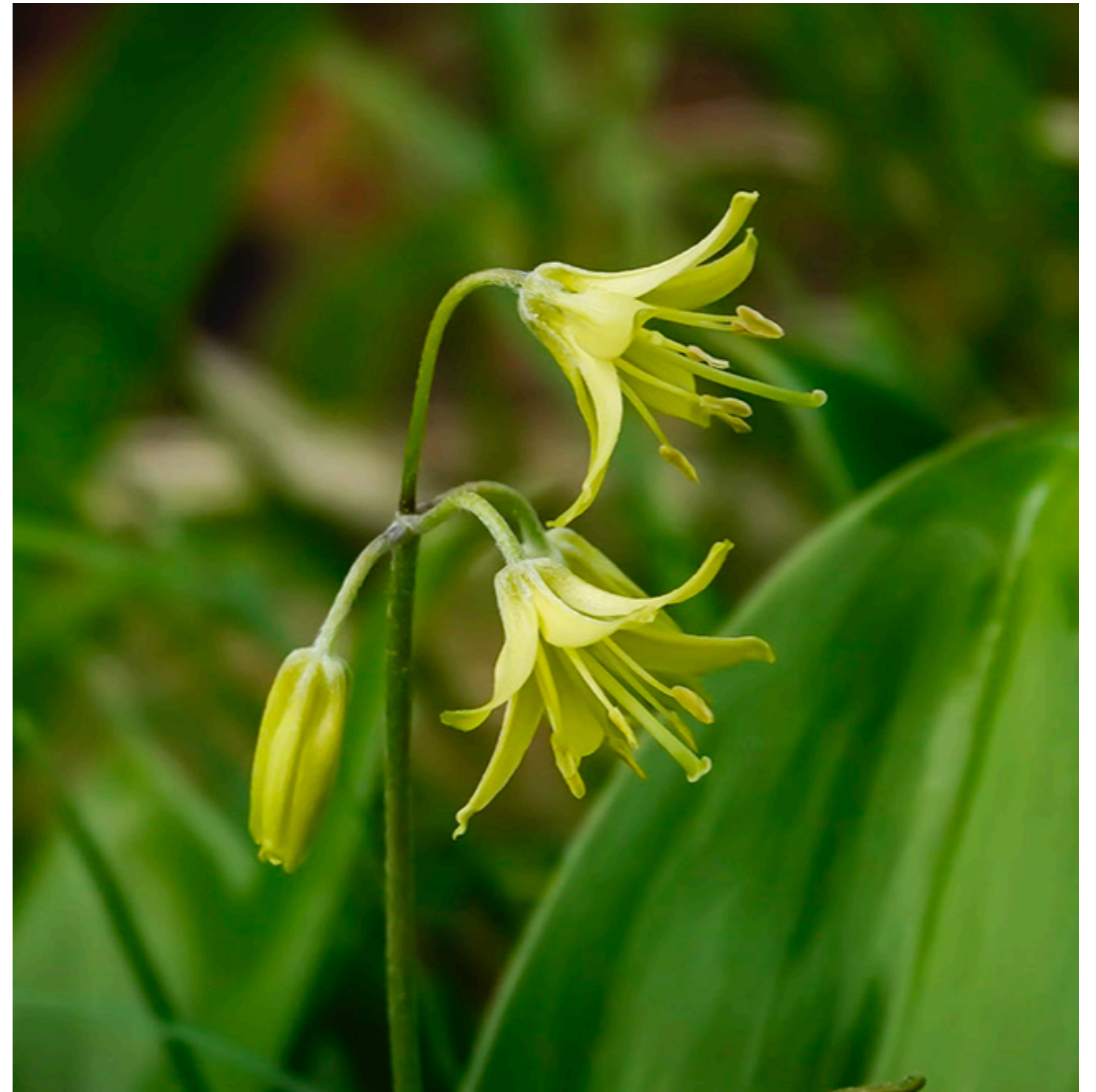


June

Yellow Clintonia

Clintonia Borealis; Lily family

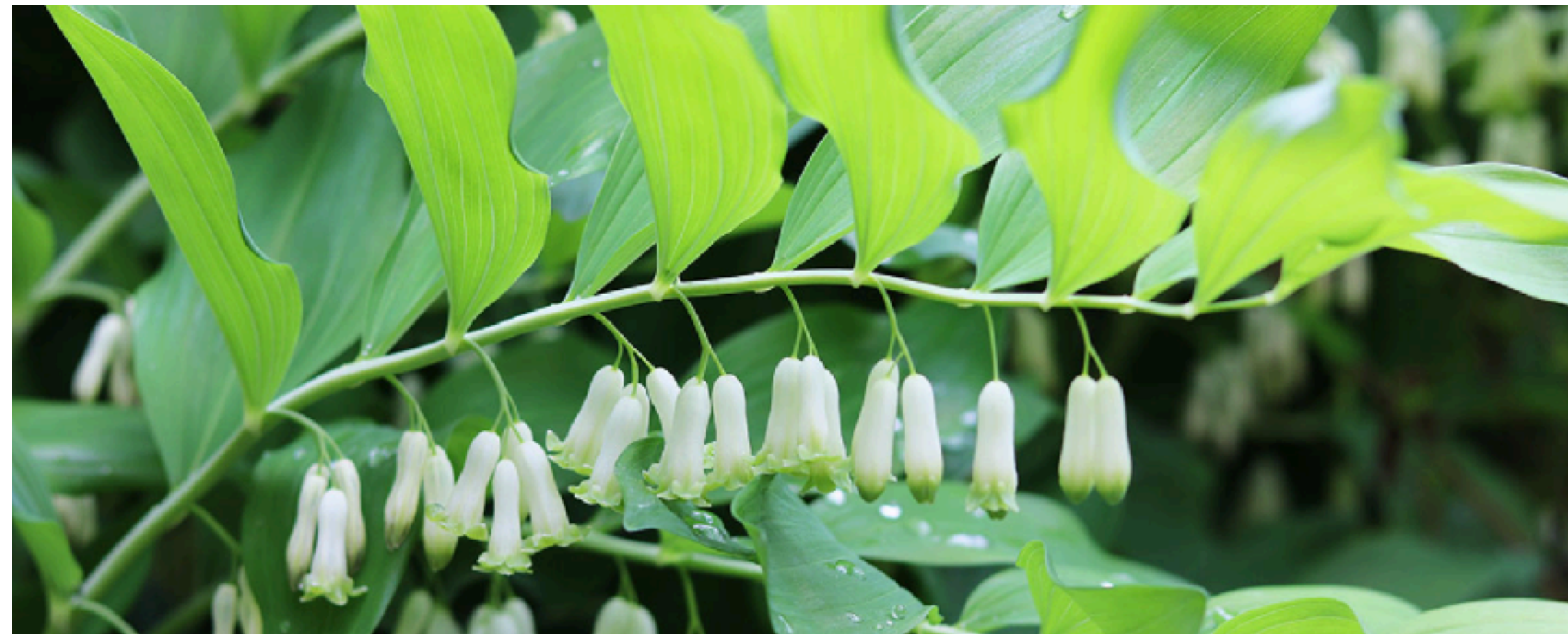
- Also known as Blue Bead Lily for its dark blue inedible fruits
- Glossy basal leaves with a prominent central vein



Hairy Solomon Seal

Polygonatum pubescens; Lily family

- Arching zigzag leafy stems with flower(s) at each node dangling below
- Young shoots are eaten like asparagus and roots are edible if well cooked



False Solomon's Seal

Maianthemum racemosum; Asparagus family

- A better name is Solomon's Plume
- Edible fruits are bright red when ripe



Pink Corydalis

***Capnoides sempervirens*; Poppy family**

- Also known as Harlequin Corydalis, because of its colorful, even clown-like, flowers
- Like other poppies it has analgesic and sedative properties



Maple Leaf Viburnum

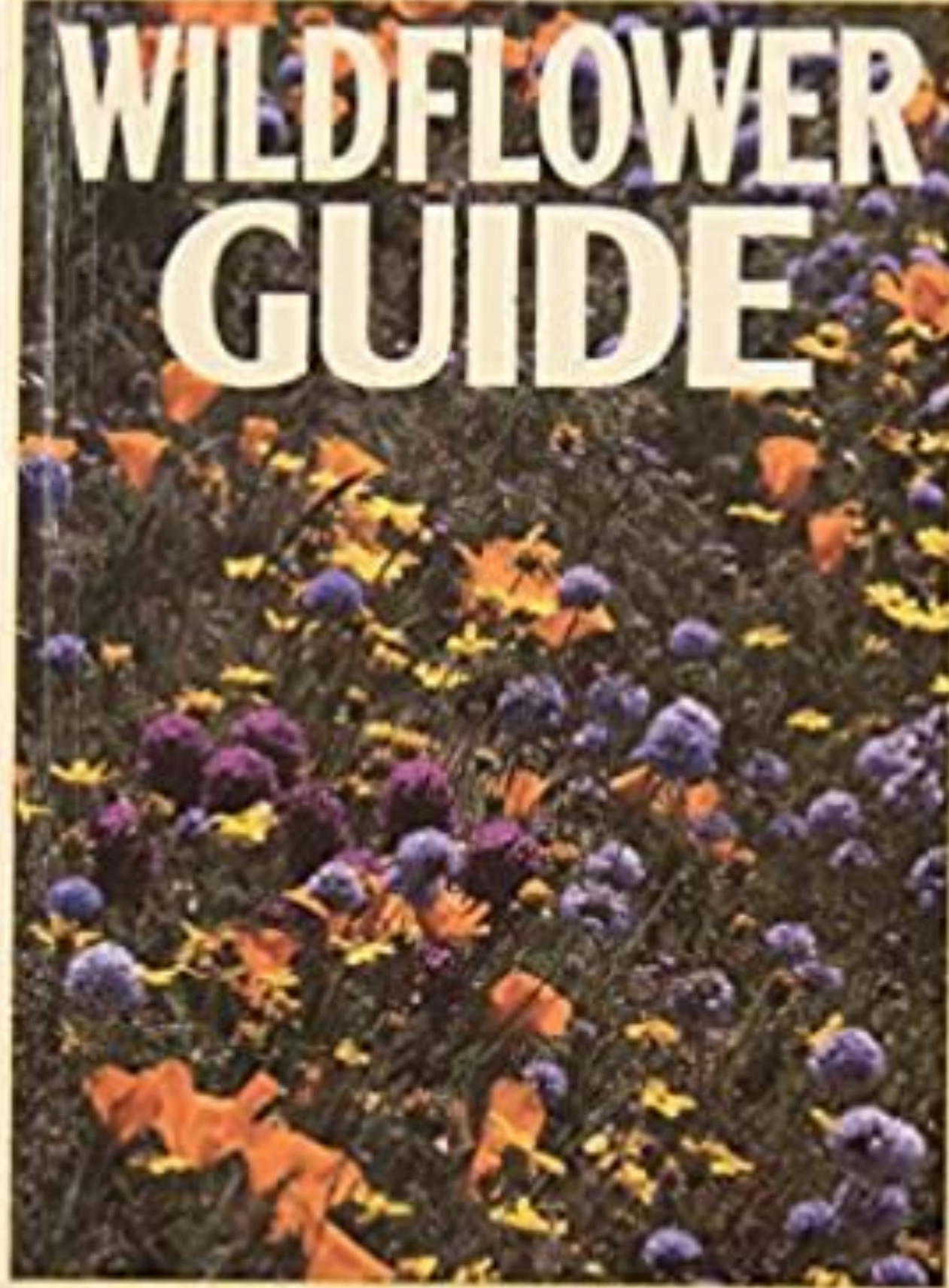
Viburnum acerifolium; Elderberry Family

- Flowers - small, white, in terminal clusters; fruits purplish, edible but not tasty
- Nectar and pollen attract numerous pollinators. Fruit eaten by many bird and mammals.



NEWCOMB'S

WILDFLOWER GUIDE



LAWRENCE NEWCOMB
ILLUSTRATED BY GORDON MORRISON