



Wildflower Exploration

YOUR MISSION

To learn about the native wildflower **WILD GINGER**.

Plants often have lots of common names. Scientists give each plant one unique scientific name to be sure everyone is talking about the same plant. The scientific name for WILD GINGER is *Asarum canadense*.

YOUR CLUES

Where to find it (habitat): You can find Wild Ginger in the woods.

What the flowers look like: The flowers have 3 reddish-brown sepals, but no petals. Unlike most flowers, Wild Ginger flowers are close to the ground and are often hidden by their leaves.

What the leaves look like: The leaves are hairy and heart-shaped.

What you might find in spring: Wild Ginger leafs out and begins to flower in April. In May, the fruits are starting to develop.

Interesting facts: Wild Ginger flowers can be self-pollinated or pollinated by ground beetles, ants, and other insects that live in the leaf litter of the forest. These insects are probably attracted to the flower because it looks like red meat. This plant has a perennial life cycle with food stored underground in rhizomes.

YOUR NOTES

List two facts below that you want to share about your plant.

Fact #1. I learned... _____

Fact #2. I learned... _____

Detectives learn by asking questions. Write one question below you would like to discover about your plant.

Something I would like to discover about my plant is _____

You can email your question to our youth educator, Raylene Ludgate at RGL3@cornell.edu

Use a wildflower field guide to answer the question below. In the index of the book, look up your plant under its name Ginger, Wild.

What is the shape of the leaves? Circle the correct answer:

Egg-shaped

Heart-shaped

Using the picture on our website or in wildflower guide, draw a picture of your plant below:

