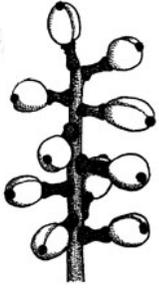


Actaea, Baneberry (red or white)



When the flower fades shiny green berries form. They develop their characteristic red or white color as they mature. Seeds inside the berries are wedge-shaped. Seeds of the red baneberry ripen earlier than those of the white baneberry. When a berry turns red, the seeds inside are green at first and mature to black. Seeds inside white berries are also green at first, and then turn dark brown. Baneberry seeds are the only ones listed here that germinate well regardless of whether they are green or have reached their mature color. Remove berry skins from seeds, RINSE, and plant 1" deep. Seedlings take one or two years to emerge.

Seed Watch: Mid-August through October

Arisaemia, Jack-in-the-Pulpit or Green Dragon



After the plant's flower fades the stems are loaded with shiny green clustered berries. Seeds are ripe when red and softened. To avoid skin irritation, WEAR LATEX GLOVES to pluck the soft berries as they ripen, leaving the firm or green ones for later. Squeeze off the red pulp to reveal a round white seed. Soak the seeds in water a few hours or overnight. Rinse the seeds again and rub off the red residue. Plant seeds 1" deep. Green Dragon is a lesser-known cousin of the Jack, whose fruits turn orange when mature. Neither plant likes any fertilizer unless it is applied while they are dormant. Seedlings emerge the next year as a single leaf.

Seed Watch: Late August

Asarum, Wild Ginger



Search under the leaf litter for brownish maroon strange-looking "flowers" attached to the base of Y-shaped stems. Break open a flower in late May to check the seed color. Ripe seeds are brown. (This same technique works for non-native European Ginger, but its flowers are tiny and ripe seeds are dark gray.) Remove seeds from the pulp of the flower (this can stain fingers, so wear gloves), RINSE seeds and plant ½" deep. Seedlings emerge as a pair of pointed leaflets the next spring.

Seed Watch: Late May through June 20th

Dicentra, Dutchman's Breeches or Squirrel Corn



Tiny, green, crescent-shaped seedpods form after flowers fade. Open a pod periodically to see if the seeds are black and shiny. If so, plant at ½" deep. They enjoy a biennial dusting of lime while dormant. *To distinguish between these two plants:* Dutchman's Breeches have pinkish bulblets with scales and white two-spurred flowers. Squirrel Corn emerges and flowers later, has smooth yellowish round bulblets that resemble corn kernels. Their white flowers are similar to its cousin, the Bleeding Heart.

Seed Watch: Early to late May

Hepatica



A tiny, bright green cluster of pointed seed forms at the tip of a long stem after the petals fade and fall. Mature seeds are still slightly greenish but when ripe, easily rub away from the stem. This seed is tricky to catch unless checked daily. Plant seeds ½" deep. The marbled two-leafed seedlings emerge the following spring.

Seed Watch: Early to late May

Jeffersonia, Twinleaf



After the plant's flowers fade, an elongated light green seedpod forms. The pod has a horizontal seam near its top. As the seedpod matures and enlarges, it yellows and freckles slightly. At this stage, gently squeeze the pod to see if the seam opens easily. Seeds mature to a shiny warm brown. If seeds look pale, check another pod again in a day or two, but monitor them closely since they ripen unexpectedly. Once the seam splits on its own, the seeds may dry, spill out, and not germinate well. Plant seeds 1" deep. Seedlings take two years to emerge and look like miniatures of the parent.

Seed Watch: Late May to late June

Polygonatum, Solomon's Seal



Round green berries dangle under the stem when the plant's flowers fade. The berry skin turns fully black when it matures in the fall. Remove the skin to uncover a large, white seed. If the seeds are slightly green, wait until they are white. Skin, RINSE and plant the seeds 1" deep. Seedlings look like the parent, except smaller.

Seed Watch: September

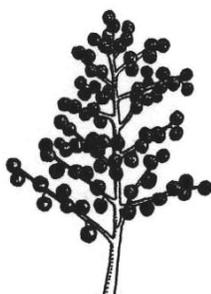
Sanguinaria, Bloodroot



A green seedpod shaped like a slim, elongated football forms at the end of the stem when flowers fade. It grows taller and fuller and gets slightly discolored and lumpy as it matures. When this occurs, gently squeeze a pod open along the seam. If the seeds inside are a warm, shiny brown, they are ripe. It is important to catch these seeds before the pod splits. Once one pod is ripe, gather all green seedpods and take them inside. Any pod that splits easily when gently squeezed should have its seeds planted immediately. Other pods can ripen on a paper towel inside a small OPEN plastic bag. (Do not close the bag since pods mold easily.) Check the pods daily and plant the seeds as pods ripen and split open. If seeds dry out they rarely germinate. Plant seeds ½” deep. Seedlings look like a quarter-size version of the parent.

Seed Watch: Late May to mid-June

Smilacina, False Solomon’s Seal



After the plant's white flowers fade, a cluster of small green berries form at the tip of the leafed stem. These berries turn pink, then speckled and are fully ripe when red and very soft. As individual berries become ripe, remove the skin, to reveal a small, round, white seed. RINSE and plant 1” deep. Allow other berries to ripen. The *S. Stellata* (star-flowered) variety has a yellow berry with black stripes that ripens to a dark red. Seedlings look like a smaller version of the parent.

Seed Watch: September

Trillium (various)



After the trillium's petals fade, a berry forms. Berries differ among the various types of trilliums. The berries of most *sessile*-type trillium are small, dry, ridged and red. They ripen early to a darker red. The white/*grandiflorum* berry is ridged and creamy white and later, the ripe seeds show through the translucent skin. The drooping/*flexipes* berry is larger, pulpy and ridged and matures later. It is creamy yellow at first, then pinkish, and deep pink when ripe. All trillium berries soften as they ripen. Check to see if the berry is ready to pull away from the plant. Next open a soft berry to check the seed color—look for a honey-brown. Try to catch ripe berries just before they are found on the ground below the plant. Remove the seeds from the pulp, RINSE and plant ½” deep. Single leaf seedlings can take two or more years to emerge, so be patient.

Seed Watch: May/June/July depending on variety

Uvularia, Merrybells



A green, 3-cornered pod forms on a short stem alongside a leaf. These green pods can take a long time to ripen. In the fall, they turn slightly yellow. Gently push the still firm pod to see if the seam splits to reveal a light brown seed. Plant ½" to 1" deep. Seedlings can take two years to emerge, and look like a miniature of the parent.

Seed Watch: Late July through early October

****NOTE: SEED WATCH TIMES ARE FOR OHIO ZONES 5 TO 6****