

# Ramps, wild leek

*Allium tricoccum* Aiton



Ramps are a wild onion/garlic relative that grows in moist hollows throughout the eastern United States. Both the leaves and the bulbs are popular as a food and as a seasoning. The leaves emerge in early spring, then disappear, being timed about the same as daffodils. Then the flowers emerge in mid-summer, small white attractive flowers in the globular cluster on a stem devoid of leaves, the assemblage 5-10 inches tall. The flowers are followed by round black seeds in early autumn.

## **Cultivation**

This is an easy plant to grow, but requires spring moisture. It thrives in deeply-shaded hollows. It does not do well in sunny sites.

## **Propagation**

Ramps seed requires cold stratification. This can be accomplished by direct sowing of the seed in fall or early winter, or by cold storage in a moist medium. If the latter method is used, allow 60 days of stratification, alternating at least twice between freezer and refrigerator.

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