



ARROW-ARUM

Peltandra virginica

Located in freshwater swamps and marshes and along ponds and slow moving streams throughout the Division. Also known as Tuckahoe.

A plant without a true stem; 30 to 45 cm high. The leaves and flowering structure each on separate stalks arising from a tuft of fibrous roots. Leaves are bright green, arrow-shaped with one long center vein and one shorter vein in each of the lobes (characteristic). The flowering stalk may be as high as the leaves, ending in a modified, green, sheath-like leaf called a spathe. Within the spathe is a spike-like structure (spadix) on which the whitish male and female flowers are located; blooming from May through July. The upper 3/4 of the spathe withers leaving the fruiting structure on a down turned stalk. A cluster of green berries forms within the modified spathe.

The berries are a favorite food of wood ducks and eaten by other waterfowl, marsh birds and muskrat.



Notes



(after Peterson & McKenny)