

## ***Maianthemum stellatum*, Star-flowered Solomon's Seal**

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### **General Botanical Characteristics**

*Maianthemum stellatum* is an herb species from 8 inches to 24 inches tall. Stems are found erect with alternating leaves. The flowers at the end of the stem are white, and have 5 - 10 petals. One large root grows straight downward from the stem of the Star-flowered Solomon's Seal with many small roots that run in all directions from the rhizome.

### **Seasonal Development**

Shoots of Star-flowered Solomon's Seal generally appear in late April, and flowering occurs from late May through early June.

### **Distribution/Habitat**

The Star-flowered Solomon's Seal is distributed throughout the United States from Alaska to California, south to Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona, east to the New England states, and south through the Carolinas. Generally an indicator of moist environments, it also occurs on rocky, well-drained hillsides. It is common in thickets and open forests on gently sloping benches adjacent to streams.



### **Interesting Facts**

- The Nuxalk Indians of British Columbia collected the ripe berries from July to August for food.
- This species is moderately resistant to fire. Fire will consume above ground parts, sparing the rhizome, which will sprout new species.

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### **References**

The Swanson Party, BWCA Homepage, Earl J.S. book, 3 December 2002,  
<http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/>

Texas A&M Bioinformatics, December 2002,  
<http://www.csdl.tamu.edu/FLORA/gallery.htm>