

ARUM FAMILY.

ARACEÆ.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Indian Turnip. Lords and Ladies *Arisæma triphyllum.*



Found in damp shady nooks, blossoming in May.

The root sends up two or three leaf-bearing stems which vary from 8 to 20 inches in height.

The leaf is compound, and often grows to a considerable size; the 3 leaflets are a broad oval shape, tapering at the tip, the ribs much marked, the fibre fine, and surface smooth; a full, juicy green. The stem is long, round and smooth, and sheathed at the foot.



The inconspicuous flowers are borne at the base of a green wand, which is wrapped around by a leaf-like sheath, its tip curving over the head of Jack and making the sounding board of his airy green pulpit. This sheath is tougher in texture and more shining than the leaves, on the stamen-bearing plant it is green, striped with greenish-white, while that of the pistil-bearing plant is green, striped with blackish violet. [Editor's note: The difference in colors is now considered to be subspcies of the *A. triphyllum* and has no connection to whether the plants are pistillate or staminate, but does give insight to the source of the old common name Lords and Ladies.] The Jack-in-the-Pulpit is borne on a stout, round, shining stem, which springs from between the sheaths of the leaf-stem.



In late summer the ripened seeds are found, a thick short club of bright red berries; the leaves of the seed-bearing plants often grow very large and are a rich, dark green color. It will be observed that Jack-in-the-Pulpit is "brother to dragons." [editor's note: This refers to *Arisæma draconitum*.]

Photos top and center: kbarton

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JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT: *Arisæma triphyllum*.

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North-Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895
Nomenclature and Families updated.