

ARUM FAMILY.

Skunk Cabbage.

Symplocarpus fœtidus.

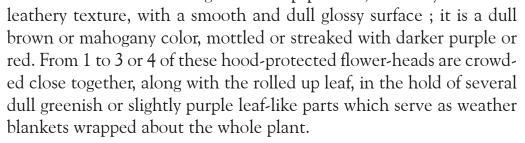
Found in March or early April, in damp meadows, and moist or swampy woodlands.

The leaves and hooded flower-clusters rise from the ground.



The large and conspicuous leaves, which do not unfold until the flowering season is past, vary from 1 to 2 feet in length, they are oval in shape with a blunt tip and heart-shaped base, have entire margins, firm texture, and smooth surfaces, and resemble the garden Day-Lily [Editor's note: Day-Lily is an old common name for Hosta.]. because of their many parallel ribs. In color a light clear green.

The unnoticeable 4-parted greenish-yellow flowers are gathered closely on a fleshy round club (that is about an inch in diameter) and enveloped by a protecting hood. This hood is large and sharp-pointed, of a very thick and



After the flowers mature the hood shrivels and falls away, the blankets disappear, and the pointed leaf-bud then unfolds, the leaves pushing forth with fine springing curves. The strong odor of the plant

prevents close observation, and denies to it the praise its growth deserves. In habit it is highly gregarious, and favorable meadows are thickly sprinkled with these rich-hued hoods of our earliest spring flower.

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Lower photos: kbarton

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



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