

# ***SOLOMON'S SEAL***

Polygonatum canaliculatum

## ***AKA Great Solomon's Seal***

**Description:** The sturdy stems of this herbaceous perennial arise somewhat stiffly, until they reach one-third, or so, of mature height. The stems then gracefully form an arch. The leaves are on the upper side of the stem, curving outward and down like lance-shaped wings of deep green. The greenish - white blooms are bell-shaped, composed of six petals in stemmed clusters of two or more, and hang from the underside of the arched stem. The clusters are located where each leaf joins the stem and appear in May and June. The fruits are blue-black berries ripening in the fall. The berries are slightly toxic.

**Natural Habitat:** moist woodlands

**Conservation Status:** New Hampshire - Endangered.

**Size:** 1 - 6 feet tall

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Light:** Light shade to shade

**Planting and Care:** Frequent water, moist air, tolerates wet soil. Easily transplanted, they are adaptable, withstand root competition, and require a minimum of soil preparation and care. Plenty of bright light but protected from the hottest part of the sun 's journey. An eastern exposure would be ideal.

**Ornamental Value:**

**Landscape Usage:** formal shade or casual woodland garden

**Commercial/Traditional Uses:** The roots ground up were used to heal fresh battle wounds, broken bones and bruises. The new shoots were once cut and boiled were used in much the same manner as asparagus. The rootstock was also used in much the same manner as potatoes. The berries and seed, however, are poisonous, causing vomiting and diarrhea if ingested. Herbalist use the roots of the Solomon's seal today.