

CALLA PALUSTRIS L.
Wild Calla

FAMILY: Araceae

HABIT: Low perennial herb with long creeping, branching rhizome bearing cordate, long-petioled leaves and solitary scape; flowers and fruits April to August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The only other Ohio species in the Araceae (a family with a distinctive spathe and spadix) that occurs in similar habitats or even remotely resembles *C. palustris* is *Peltandra virginica*. However, *P. virginica* has a green, convolute spathe, sagittate leaves and green berries, whereas *C. palustris* has a white, ovate spathe, rounded leaves with a cordate base and red berries.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, in our range s. to Maryland, Indiana and Iowa.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records from Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage, Stark and Summit Counties. There are pre-1980 records from Cuyahoga, Trumbull and Williams Counties.

HABITAT: Bogs, margins of ponds and openings in swamp forests, buttonbush communities.

HAZARDS: Overshading by encroaching woody plants; destruction of habitat by draining, filling or peat mining.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, protection of habitat and management at bogs help this species.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete and mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species should be sought in bogs and swamps throughout northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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