Wild Ginger
Asarum canadense

3-8” x 1-1.5' outstanding dense groundcover for shade. Colony forming.

CT native, found in rich woods, wooded slopes, ravines. Occurs in both floodplains and uplands.

Bold velvety-green heart-shaped 3-6” leaves, deeply indented at the base, smooth margins. Ginger scent when bruised.

Curious purple-brown spring flowers, 1”, hidden by foliage, April-May. Turns into fleshy fruit by early summer.

Part to full shade. Average to wet, likes well-drained humusy rich soil; spreads 6” a year in all directions, once settled. Forms a dense carpet that deters weeds. Durable and carefree.

Puts out just one flush of leaves per year, in spring, so it may look a little tattered the first year after having been transplanted.

Use for woodlands, shade gardens, edging. Its broad leaves pair very well with Maidenhair Fern- they have the same color, but contrasting textures.

Alternate food source for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly, likely helping extend the range north of its main food source, Dutchman’s Pipe Vine. Brown black caterpillars with small orange spots in 2 rows down their back.

Photo 1
Bruce Kirchoff
flickr.com/photos/brucekirchoff/22941962336/sizes/l/

Photo 2
Greg Stack
University of Illinois Extension
urbanext.illinois.edu/groundcovers/directory/ginger.cfm

Photo 3
North Central Conservation District

Photo 4
Derek Anderson
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
wisplants.uwsp.edu/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=ASACAN

Photo 5
Missouri Botanic PlantFinder
www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder