

Polygonatum biflorum

Solomon's-seal or Smooth Solomon's Seal

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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Common in moist woods throughout much of the Mid-Atlantic, this [native](#) understory plant boasts graceful arching stems, dainty bell-like flowers, and prominent leaf veins. Its common name may come either from resemblance of rhizome scars (from break-away stalks) to the ancient Hebrew seal of King Solomon or from purported "wound sealing properties."

Perennial	Colony, Flowers, Fruit, Fall Foliage
Height: 1–3 feet	
Spread: 1–1½ feet	
Bloom Color: White or pale green	
Characteristics	
Upright, mounding herbaceous perennial with arching, unbranched stems up to 5 feet long	
Opposite , simple, parallel-veined , yellow-green leaves turn an attractive yellow in fall	
Greenish-white, 6-petaled, tubular, hypogynous flowers dangle (usually) in pairs along stalk April–June	
Blue to black berries follow flowers	
Distinctive scars left when leaf stalks break away	
Slow spreading rhizomes may form colonies	
Attributes	
Tolerates wet soil and erosion; no serious pests or diseases; deer occasionally severely damage	
Sometimes confused with false Solomon's seal, which has upright flowers	
Berries are poisonous; only roots (digging rhizomes up kills plant) and young shoots are edible boiled	
Attracts butterflies to nectar and birds to fruit	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Rich, acidic	<i>Hosta</i> - <i>Hosta</i> , <i>Plantain Lily</i>
Light Requirements : Partial Shade, Shade	Non-native ferns
Water Requirements : Dry, Moist	
Use in woodland gardens or naturalized areas; mix with ferns at the base of trees	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3-8	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Thomas Jefferson Community Center (top), Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, and Native Plant Garden at The Nature Conservancy



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