

LOOK AGAIN !

Some of our most attractive plants not only are restricted to the southern mountains but within that narrow range have such limited distributions that the likelihood of seeing them may depend largely upon chance.

This is exemplified by the endemic Lily of the Valley (Convallaria montana), which occurs locally in the Appalachian and Blue Ridge provinces of only four states. It may possibly be a variety of the European C. majalis, which furnished the stock from which we have cultivated the familiar, fragrant Lilies of the Valley for many years, but whatever the nomenclature there are marked differences. The native plants are considerably larger, and the leaves overtop the flowers to a greater degree. Also, the individuals are spaced apart and do not crowd each other in dense, ground-covering colonies as do those of the typical C. majalis.



CONVALLARIA MONTANA

The name "Wild Lily of the Valley" is often applied to Maianthemum canadense, thereby causing confusion which could easily be avoided by using the literal translation of its scientific name: "Canada Mayflower". Aside from this, it cannot be confounded with Convallaria. It is of much smaller stature, and the leaves are alternate and the flowering stalk terminal, instead of all arising from the base. Most unusual for a member of the Lily Family is the fact that its floral parts are in multiples of two rather than three.



MAIANTHEMUM CANADENSE

Dick Smith