
Atamasco lily *Zephyranthes atamasco*



Perennial, scapose, bulbous herb, 10 to 25 cm tall. Bulbs onionlike, brown-coated. Leaves linear, sheathing at the base, 20 to 40 cm long, 3 to 8 cm wide. Flowers solitary, very showy, white, 7 to 10 cm long. Found in Coastal Plain and lower Piedmont, from Virginia to Florida to Mississippi; most abundant in moist, open woods and low meadows.

Toxicity

The toxic principle is an alkaloid. The bulb of this plant is the most toxic portion. The leaves are also toxic but to a much lesser degree. Animals are usually poisoned in the springtime when the ground is wet and there is little forage. Cattle, horses, and poultry have been poisoned by this plant.

Symptoms

Symptoms usually appear in 24 to 48 hours after the bulbs are eaten. Staggering, diarrhea with blood, collapse, and death are the usual symptoms.

Treatment

Give gastrointestinal protectives.