

Saving Green Dragon:

What you can do to help

Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) is a small perennial plant of moist forests. Green Dragon looks like its common cousin the Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), but the long tail of the flower sheath and the distinctive leaf shape differentiates it from that species.

Do you live near Green Dragon?

Green Dragon occurs in southern Ontario and southwestern Quebec. It prefers moist to wet forested floodplains and riparian (stream bank) margins, often dominated by maple and ash.

What you can do to help

- ✓ **Learn to identify this plant.** If you are lucky enough to discover a new population of Green Dragon, be sure to report it to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources or the Natural Heritage Information Centre.
- ✓ **Do not collect this plant** or its parts for medicinal, ornamental or any other uses.
- ✓ **Protect your swamp or stream bank vegetation.** Here are a few tips:
 - Avoid removal of any riparian (stream bank) vegetation.
 - Don't allow livestock to graze on a stream bank or in the stream or swamp. Livestock grazing in riparian areas and wetlands causes erosion, soil compaction, reduced water quality, and damage to vegetation. Fencing may be necessary.
 - Minimize activities that can damage the plants or its sensitive habitat.
- ✓ **Avoid logging** near Green Dragon populations as it reduces shade and moisture required for growth. If you need to harvest:
 - Consult with your local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authority or Woodlot Association before logging near the Green Dragon populations.
 - Maintain at least a 30m vegetation buffer zone between the cut area and the Green Dragon population.

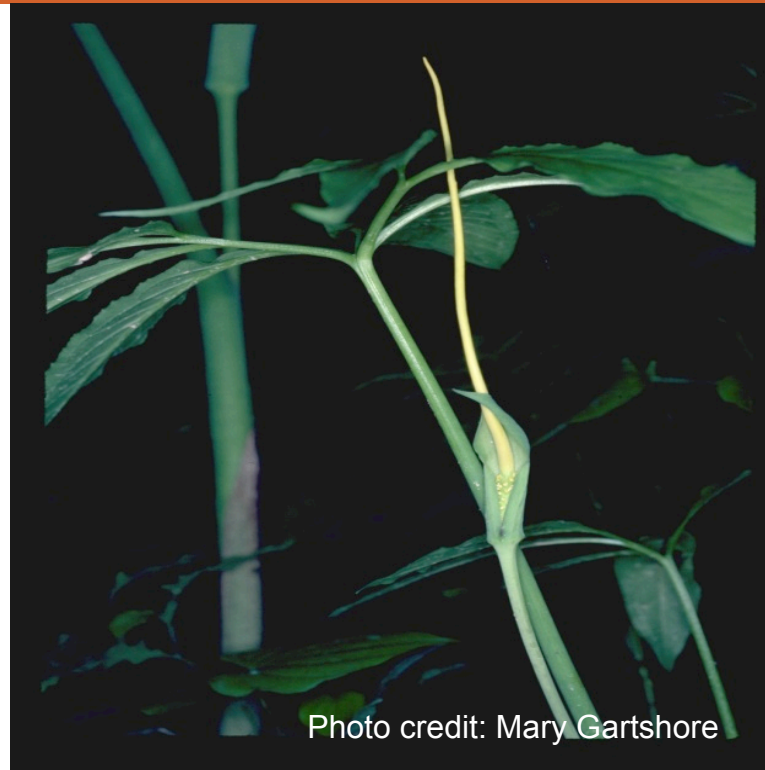


Photo credit: Mary Gartshore

Field check

- ✓ Height: 90cm
- ✓ Leaves: one leaf with 5-15 slender leaflets in semi-circle arrangement
- ✓ Flowers: May-June; greenish-yellow, in a sheath with a 5-10 cm long orange "tail"
- ✓ Fruit: looks like small corn cob with bright red or orange berries

Did you know?

The root is bitter tasting and poisonous unless specially prepared. It was a traditional aboriginal medicine also used by European settlers.

- ✓ **Do not alter natural streams** near Green Dragon populations. Stream channelization, ditching, and tile drainage change water levels, divert waterflow, and potentially dry the habitat, threatening the survival of the plants. Contact your local Conservation Authority or Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Office before starting any work in or near your stream.

More Best Stewardship Practices

- ✓ **Stay on designated trails** when you visit natural areas to avoid trampling Green Dragon plants and disturbing their sensitive habitat.
- ✓ **Keep your pets on a leash** when you walk them in natural areas, as pets can transport invasive plant seeds if they get stuck in the pet's hair.
- ✓ **Learn to identify invasive species.** Your local Conservation Authority or Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Office can provide you with information on invasive species that occur in your area and what you can do to help prevent their spread.
- ✓ **Avoid dumping waste of any kind in natural areas.** Garbage damages plants, pollutes the environment and may introduce invasive species.
- ✓ **Landscape with native plant species** from local seed-stock supplied by a reputable garden centre.
- ✓ **Learn about stewardship activities** in your area and actively participate in protecting Species at Risk. To find more information about stewardship activities in your area, contact your local Stewardship Council or Conservation Authority.
- ✓ **Take advantage of the Environmental Farm Plan program.** To learn more contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources or the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.
- ✓ **If you have Species at Risk** on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs or financial incentives that support the protection and recovery of Species at Risk and their habitats. Contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for more information.
- ✓ **Report any illegal activity** related to plants and wildlife to 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

Status

Green Dragon is a species of Special Concern nationally and provincially.

Carolinian Canada Coalition is working with local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Offices, Conservation Authorities and other Non-Governmental Organizations to recover Species at Risk.

You can help the recovery efforts by protecting this species and its habitat.

Good sources of information

Carolinian Canada Coalition:

www.carolinian.org

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources:

Includes information about Ontario Species at Risk
www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/

Natural Heritage Information Centre

<http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/>

Find your local Conservation Authority Office:

www.conservationontario.ca

Government of Canada Species at Risk Public Registry:

www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Find your local Stewardship Council:

www.ontariostewardship.org

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

www.omafra.gov.on.ca/

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Includes information about the Environmental Farm Plan
ontariosoilcrop.org

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