



# Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

**Common Name:** Jack-in-the-Pulpit  
**Scientific Name:** *Arisaema triphyllum*  
**Plant Family:** Araceae

**Identifying Characteristics:**

Size: Jack-in-the-Pulpit is a perennial forb, growing to a height of 30 to 90 cm (1 to 3 ft).

Leaves: Jack-in-the-pulpits have two compound leaves, with 3 large, oblong leaflets that sit atop long petioles.

Flowers: The flower consists of a spadix (this would be Jack) of many tiny flowers green and purple, enclosed in a spathe (the 'pulpit') which is usually green with purple veins (though some white flowers exist).

Habitat: Jack-in-the-pulpit grows in fertile, moist woodlands, often in shady conditions.

Bloom time: April-June



Photograph by Thomas G. Barnes @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

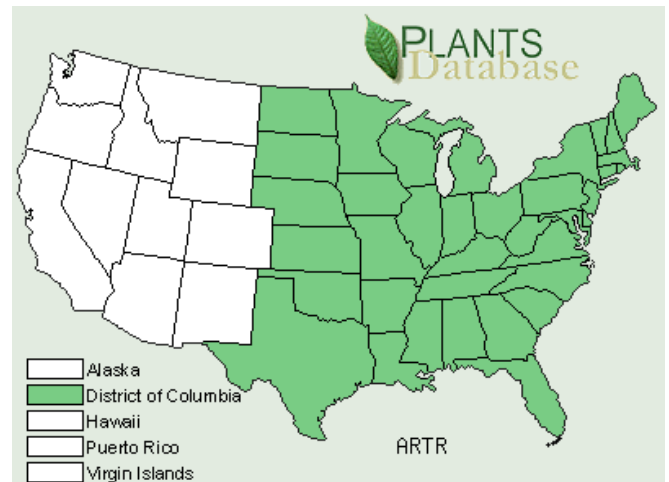


Photograph by Robert Bierman, Wisconsin State Herbarium Wisflora (www.wisc.edu/wisflora)

**Phenological observation:**

First Flower (gently open the spathe or "pulpit" and look at the spadix or "Jack" to see if the tiny flowers are shedding pollen)

**Distribution Area:**



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)

**Did you know?** Jack-in-the-pulpit produces crystals of calcium oxalate, which is toxic to herbivores. Researchers in Wisconsin have found that this plant has increased in abundance in forest understories over the past several decades, possibly because these crystals help it to deter white-tailed deer.