Native Plant of the Month

Goat'sbeard
*Aruncus dioicus*

• "Aruncus" derives from a Greek word *aryngos* meaning goat's beard. Goat'sbeard may remind you of the white, fluffy beards of the mountain goats that live in our alpine mountains.

• Hummingbirds, mourning cloak butterflies, bumblebees, wasps, and other insects feed on the flowers. Seeds last through winter and provide winter forage for small birds.

• Deer and elk feed on the foliage.

• There are male and female plants. Male plants have larger, fuller flowers while the female flowers are more arching.

Landscape Value

Goat'sbeard has long been recognized by gardeners as an important landscape plant with several cultivars available. It is a graceful but tough perennial that grows from rhizomes. The flowers occur in late spring to early summer for long lasting and striking blooms. The arching seedheads provide interest through the fall and winter.

Goat'sbeard prefers to grow in partial to full shade, and is a bright addition to shady places along forest edges, walkways and on moist banks. It often grows in company with lady fern, maidenhair fern, bleeding heart, piggyback, fringecup, and false Solomon's seal.