

Smilacina - Growing Guide

Growing Smilacina

(syn. *Maianthemum racemosum*)

False Solomon's seal, May lily

This is an unusual clump forming, rhizomatous perennial whose flowers, appearance, and habit as a garden plant have much in common with *Polygonatum multiflorum* (Solomon's seal).

This is a shade loving plant whose roots can easily be split and divided within the clump if lifted when it is dormant. That is not to say that *Smilacina* are in any way tender. Since this is a North American genus they are definitely not!

The flowers appear in May or June on arching stalks rising above the leaves and are in feathery spikes of tiny scented yellowish-white flowers. The flower stalks are about 2ft tall and clumps, when mature, will extend to a similar width with several flower stalks. After flowering the plant will produce clusters of red berries.



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