

Ghost Plant, Indian Pipe

Monotropa uniflora

Plant of the week





Monotropa uniflora

Monotropa = one turn, the flower heads all turn in one direction.

uniflora = one flower.

Photo: <https://www.ohio-forum.com/2017/06/interesting-botany-finds-wayne-national-forest/>





Monotropa uniflora

Not a fungus.

Member of the blueberry family.

Photo: Gary Monroe; https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/mycotrophic/monotropa_uniflora.shtml





Monotropa uniflora

Blueberry-like flower.

Photo: Gary Monroe; https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/mycotrophic/monotropa_uniflora.shtml





Widely distributed. Rich, moist forest floors.

Supposedly becoming less common.





Harvest when it is cool and moist. Cut stem just above ground level.

Should you harvest at all?



Plants photosynthesize and manufacture sugars.

Mycorrhizal fungi are attached to plant roots and take up the sugars and convert them to sugar alcohols.

Indian pipe then gets the sugar alcohols from the mycorrhizal fungi.



Asparagus?

When young and cooked.



Anticonvulsive and for epilepsy:

(Cherokee) Roots are pulverize just prior to administration.

Potential sedative?



toothache:

(Cree) Chew the flower.



Warning:

No clinical trials. Based upon traditional knowledge.

