



Photograph Muller, Thomas L, Albemarle, Va. 2008

Black Snakeroot/Bugbane *Actaea racemosa*

- 6-8ft tall, winter dormant perennial, native: NJ, northeast US
- Tall white flower spikes bloom June to September
- Average to moist, slightly acidic soil, shade to part shade
- Attracts butterflies; caterpillar host plant (Spring Azure)
- Moderately easy to propagate from seed
- Collect seed capsules August to October, when they turn tan
- Let capsules dry, then crush and shake out seeds
- Fresh seed may germinate the first spring, flowers year 2 or 3
- Dry seed may take two full years, flowers year 3 or 4
- Sow outdoors on moist soil surface in fall for seedlings in spring
- Sow indoors on moist soil surface, do not cover with soil
- Indoors, may need 2 cycles (40°F for 8 weeks, then 8 weeks at 70°F)