

early spring, are borne erect on upright, slender stalks 2 to 6 inches long, one on each stalk. The flower, 2 to 3 inches long, is composed of six petal-like parts like a six-pointed star, the points spreading or curling back, white or pinkish in color and with six golden yellow stamens on short stalks near the center. The seed-pods are three-angled, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch across and contain several smooth, flat, black seeds. (Fig. 26.)

**Habitat and Distribution.**—Atamasco-lily or a close relative grows nearly all over Florida. It is most common in flatwoods, low grassy fields and in the northern areas on tussocks in swamps.

**Related Species.**—*Z. treatiae* S. Wats. has narrow leaves,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide, and grows scattered in flatwoods. *Z. simpsoni* Chapm., growing in the southern areas, has flowers which do not open wide, the floral parts remaining erect.

**Toxicity.**—Cases of poisoning have been observed in horses, cattle and chickens. The bulb is the most poisonous part of the plant. It has an extremely acrid taste. Approximately two pounds of the fresh bulbs will prove fatal to a 300- to 400-pound steer. Forty grams of bulbs is lethal to a mature chicken.

**Symptoms.**—The feces become soft in cattle and horses and often streaked with bloody mucus. Staggering occurs within 48 hours after the plant has been consumed. The affected animal collapses suddenly and usually dies without struggle.

**Prevention.**—Animals should not be allowed to graze infested areas in the spring when there is not an abundance of desirable forage.

**Treatment.**—No treatment can be recommended.

### Other Poisonous Plants

Plants named in the following list occur throughout Florida and are known to be poisonous under some conditions. While it may be said that the first eight are perhaps more poisonous than the remainder, results of eating them chiefly depend on amounts eaten. Almost all will produce symptoms and death if a sufficient quantity is consumed. Those marked \* are introduced or foreign plants used in Florida for ornamental or other purposes.

\**Abrus praeatorius* L., jequirity rosary pea, crab-eye.

\**Crotalaria retusa* L., crotalaria.

*Crotalaria sagittalis* L., arrow crotalaria.