

**Asparagaceae (Asparagus Family) Key**  
**Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador**  
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- 1a. Plants erect, with 1–4 leaves (usually 2–3 on fertile stems); stems straight; leaves alternate; stems, leaves, and inflorescence axis and pedicels glabrous..... **2**
- 1b. Plants erect to arching, with 5–12+ leaves on fertile stems; stems slightly zig-zag; leaves alternate, usually 2-ranked; lower leaf surfaces, and inflorescence axis and pedicels finely or minutely pubescent. .... **3**
  - 2a. Flowers 2-merous; tepals 4, shorter than the 4 stamens; the single pistil 2-carpellate; leaves ovate to lanceolate, cordate to sessile. ....  
 ..... ***Maianthemum canadense*** (wild lily-of-the-valley)
  - 2b. Flowers 3-merous; tepals 6, longer than the 6 stamens; the single pistil 3-carpellate; leaves elliptic to oblanceolate, 5–12 cm long.....  
 ..... ***Maianthemum trifolium*** (threeleaf false Solomon’s seal)
- 3a. Stems 5–10 dm tall, arching; leaves 5–12, short-petiolate; blades elliptic-oblong, 10–25 cm long; leaves oriented parallel to the stem axis and ± parallel to the ground; inflorescence a many-flowered panicle, 7–17 cm long; flowers very small, short-pedicelled, tepals 1–3 mm long; rare in rich forested habitats in western Newfoundland.  
 ..... ***Maianthemum racemosum*** (feathery false Solomon’s seal)
- 3b. Stems 0.5–2 dm tall, erect to arching; leaves 8–11, bases sheathing to sessile and slightly clasping; blades elliptic, lanceolate, to oblanceolate, 5–12 cm long; leaves erect to ascending; inflorescence a small, few-flowered raceme, 2–4.5 cm long; flowers larger, long-pedicelled, tepals 4–6 mm long; plants fairly common in the appropriate habitat: common in dry sandy forested sites, coastal meadows, and sand dunes.....  
 ..... ***Maianthemum stellatum*** (starry false Solomon’s seal)

## ***Maianthemum* (Asparagaceae) Comparison Chart**

<b><i>Maianthemum</i> species:</b>	<b><i>M. canadense</i></b>	<b><i>M. racemosum</i></b>	<b><i>M. stellatum</i></b>	<b><i>M. trifolium</i></b>
	wild lily-of-the-valley	feathery false Solomon's seal	starry false Solomon's seal	threeleaf false Solomon's seal
<b>Height</b>	5–25 cm tall; <b>stem erect</b>	50–100 cm; <b>stem arching</b>	10–65 cm; <b>stem erect to arching</b>	5–20 cm; <b>stem erect</b>
<b>Leaves</b> (on fertile stems)	leaves 2–3; alternate, sessile	<b>leaves 5–12;</b> alternate, short-petiolate; <b>2-ranked</b>	<b>leaves 8–11;</b> alternate, sessile to ± clasping; <b>2-ranked</b>	leaves 2–4; alternate, sessile to slightly clasping
<b>Leaf Blade</b>	lanceolate, ovate; 2–10 cm long	elliptic, oblong, lanceolate; 10–25 cm long	elliptic, oblong, lanceolate; 4–15 cm long	elliptic, oblanceolate; 5–12 cm long
<b>Inflorescence</b>	racemes; 1.5–5 cm long	<b>panicles;</b> <b>7–17 dm long</b>	racemes; 2–4.5 cm long	racemes; 2–5 cm long
<b>Flower</b>	<b>tepals 4,</b> 1.5–2 mm long; <b>stamens 4;</b> tepals shorter than the stamens	<b>tepals 6,</b> 1–3 mm long; stamen 6; <b>tepals shorter than the stamens</b>	<b>tepals 6,</b> <b>4–6 mm long,</b> stamens 6; tepals longer than the stamens	<b>tepals 6,</b> 2.5–4 mm long; stamens 6; tepals longer than the stamens
<b>Mature Fruit</b>	<b>translucent red berry, 4–6 mm diam.</b>			
<b>Habitat</b>	<b>forests</b>	<b>forests</b>	shores, sand dunes, sandy open woods	swamps, bog pools, muskeg