## NATIVE PLANTS and **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

## **Native Plant Facts** from www.nativeplants.msu.edu

## Ironweed, Missouri ironweed Vernonia missurica Raf.

Group: Dicot

Family: Asteraceae (aster)

Growth Habit: Forb/herb

**Duration:** Perennial

U.S. Nativity: Native, much of central U.S.

**Natural Enemies** Attracted: Large numbers of Chalcidoidea. Small numbers of *Orius* insidiosus, Thomisidae, Salticidae, Coccinellidae, Plagiognathus politus, Empididae, Chlamydatus associatus, Cynipoidea and Braconidae.

Pests Attracted: Medium numbers of lygus bugs. Small numbers of leaf beetles, leafhoppers, Japanese beetles, froghoppers and tephritid fruit flies.





**Bees attracted:** Moderate numbers (between 1-5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees, leafcutter bees, cuckoo bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees.

**Species Notes:** Striking purple, feathered flowers about 1 inch across bloom in groups at the top of the plant, and plants grow 3-6 ft tall. Plants bloomed throughout August. This species was sixth most attractive to natural enemies in the late season, with three times as many natural enemies as the grass control.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

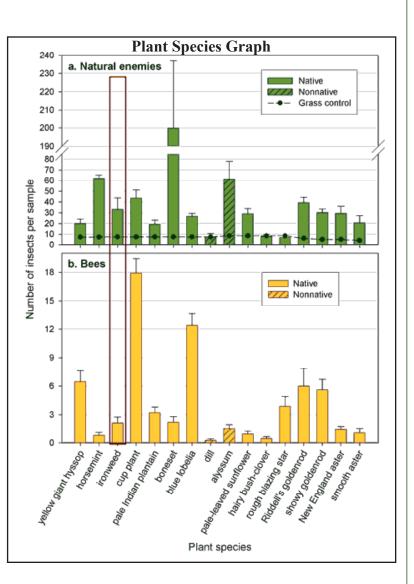
Entomology



Developed by: Doug Landis, Anna Fiedler and Rufus Isaacs; Department of Entomology, Michigan State University. Please note: The information presented should be considered a guideline to be adapted for your situation. MSU makes no warranty about the use of the information presented here.

About the Plant Species Graph:

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). Ironweed (Vernonia missurica) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.

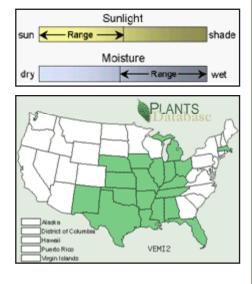


**Habitat:** Includes full sun to partial sun, and average to very wet soils. Naturally occurring in damp areas such as river bottom woods, fens, sedge meadows, and wet prairies. May also occur in damp or dry open ground along roadsides, fencerows, fields and river banks.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in third year) or plug material (flowers in second year).

**Availability:** Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

**For more information:** View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing,MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.