

## Culver's root

# *Veronicastrum virginicum* (L.) Farw.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae  
(figwort)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native

**Natural Enemies Attracted:**  
Medium numbers of  
[\*Orius insidiosus\*](#). Small  
numbers for [Chalcidoidea](#),  
[Dolichopodidae](#), [Thomisidae](#),  
[Salticidae](#), [Syrphidae](#),  
[Empididae](#) and [Braconidae](#).

**Pests Attracted:** Large  
numbers of lygus bugs.

Small numbers of aphids, leaf beetles, leafhoppers, thrips and Japanese beetles.

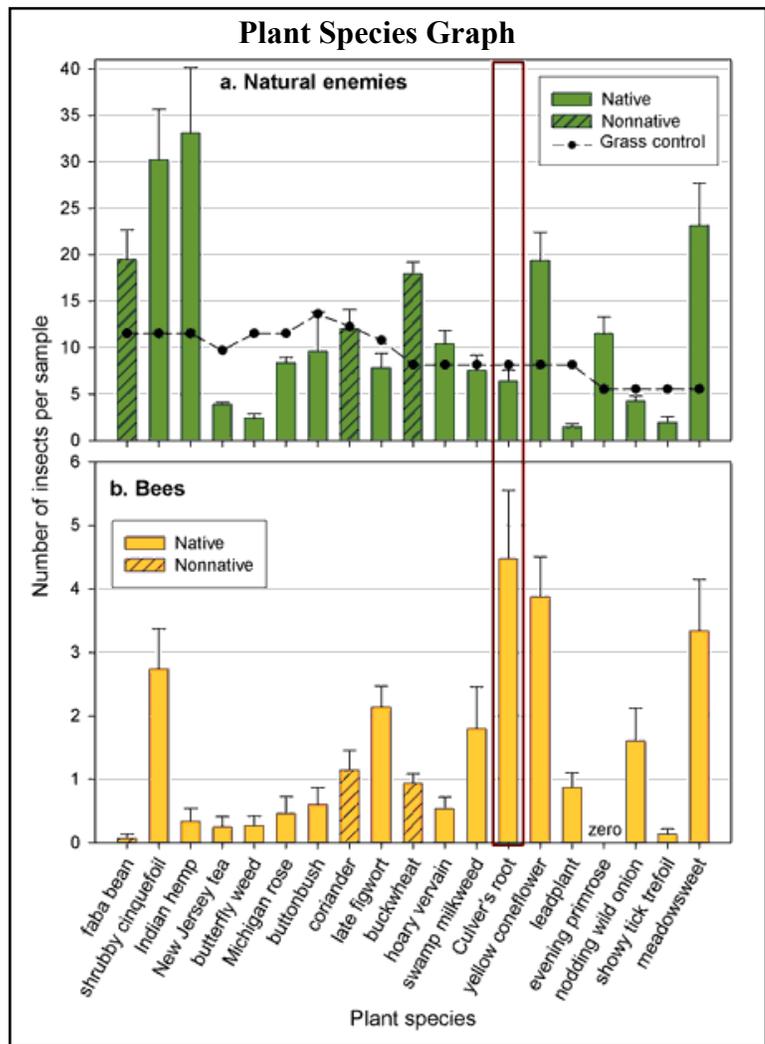
**Bees attracted:** High numbers (more than 5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees; also highly attractive to honey bees.

**Species Notes:** This plant has small white flowers on thin, long stalks. Flowering stalks grow to 3-5 ft tall, sometimes falling over without support. Culver's root bloomed from late July through early August. This was one of the less attractive mid season native plants to natural enemies, with fewer natural enemies than the grass control.



**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). Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) 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:** Tolerance includes full sun to partial shade, and average to wet soil. Naturally occurring in fens, prairie remnants and meadows, along riverbanks, roadsides, and in deciduous woodlands. Map indicates plant distribution by state.

**Cultivation and Management:** Difficult to establish when direct sown, but flowers in second or third year when grown from seed. Also can be grown from plug material (flowers in first or second year).

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

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

