

## Nodding wild onion

# *Allium cernuum* Roth

**Group:** Monocot

**Family:** Liliaceae (lily)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Perennial

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

**Natural Enemies Attracted:** Small numbers of [\*Orius insidiosus\*](#), [\*Thomisidae\*](#), [\*Plagiognathus politus\*](#), [\*Salticidae\*](#), [\*Chalcidoidea\*](#), [\*Nabidae\*](#) and [\*Coccinellidae\*](#).

**Pests Attracted:** Small numbers of lygus bug, leaf beetles, thrips and aphids.

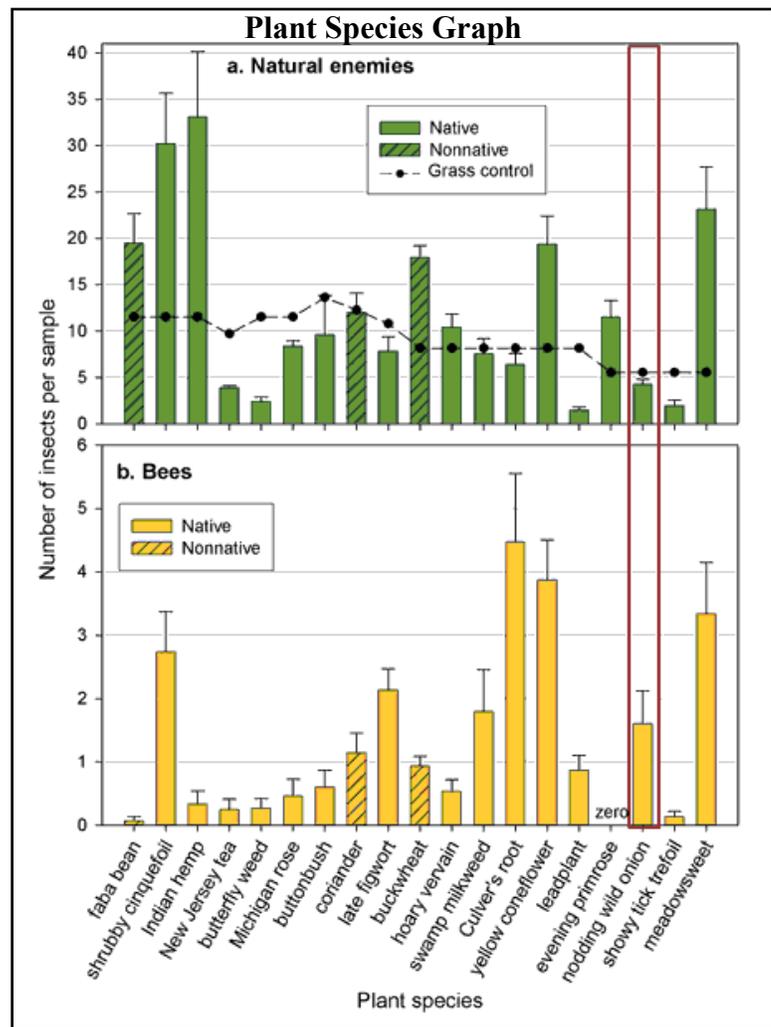
**Bees attracted:** Moderate numbers (between 1-5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees and bumble bees; also highly attractive to honey bees.



**Species Notes:** Pale pink flower clusters about 2 inches wide are borne at the end of nodding stalks about 2 feet tall. Plants remained small in stature in their third year of growth, leaves grew to about 6 inches tall. Plants bloomed throughout August. This species was one of the least attractive to natural enemies in the mid season, with similar numbers of natural enemies as in 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). Nodding wild onion (*Allium cernuum*) 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 mid-range soil moisture (neither very wet nor very dry). Naturally occurring in meadows and swales, grassy wooded banks, and on marshy ground. Often found along roadsides and railroad embankments.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in third year) or plug material (flowers in second year), although plants establish well from plugs and not as reliably from seed. We saw no evidence of deer or other vertebrate browsing on this species.

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

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

