

## Indian hemp

# *Apocynum cannabinum* L.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Apocynaceae (dogbane)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native, all of continental U.S.

**Natural Enemies Attracted:**

Large numbers of [Empididae](#).  
Medium numbers of [Chalcidoidea](#), [Thomisidae](#), and [Coccinellidae](#). Small numbers of [Cynipoidea](#), [Orius insidiosus](#), [Chrysopidae](#), [Cantharidae](#), [Dolichopodidae](#), [Syrphidae](#), [Plagiognathus politus](#), [Stratiomyidae](#) and [Ichneumonidae](#).

**Pests Attracted:** Large numbers of aphids. Small numbers of leaf beetles, Japanese beetles, root-maggot flies, thrips, lygus bugs and weevils.

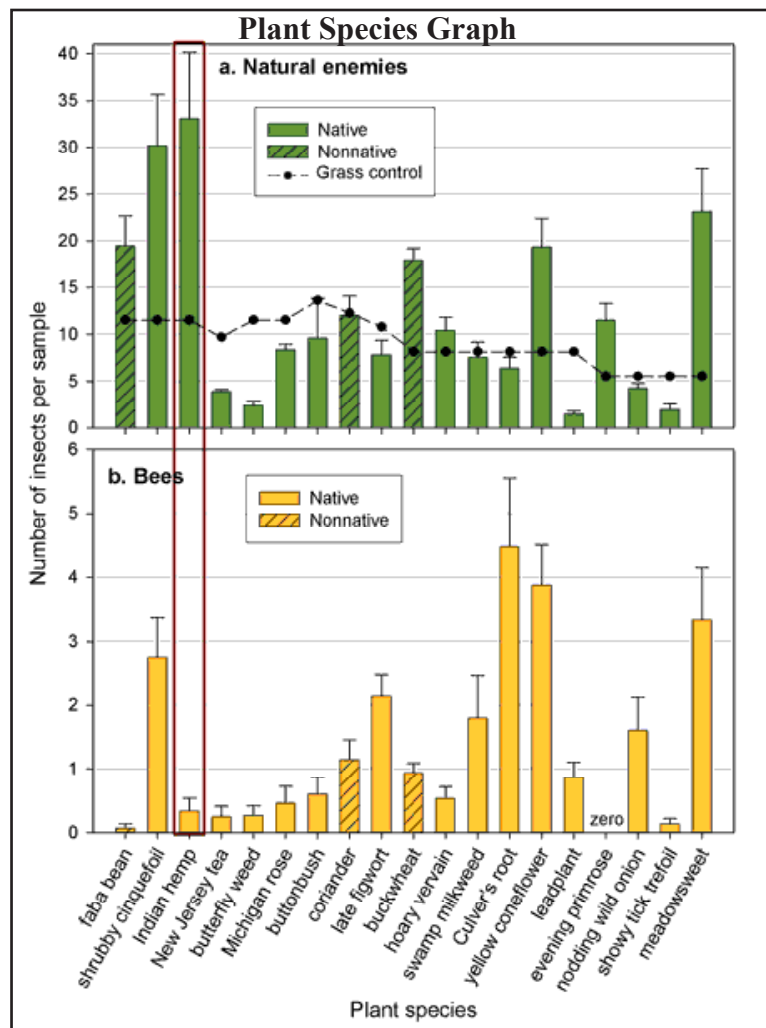
**Bees attracted:** Low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including yellow-faced bees and sweat bees.

**Species Notes:** Small, fragrant white flower clusters. Plants have attractive oval shaped leaves, filled in during the second year of growth, and grew to 2-4 feet tall. Plants bloomed from late June through July. This species was the most attractive to natural enemies in the mid season, with three times as many 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). Indian hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*) 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 and mid-range soil moisture (neither very wet nor very dry). Often found in disturbed areas such as along roadways, railroads, and in fields. Naturally occurring in wet areas including river banks, marshes, shores, and thickets. Also found in meadows that are seasonably wet.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in third year) or plug material (flowers in first or second year). Although this plant attracted large numbers of natural enemies, it has a spreading habit and is sometimes considered a weed in perennial agricultural systems.

**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

