

## Dill

# *Anethum graveolens* L.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Apiaceae (carrot)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Annual

**U.S. Nativity:** Introduced

**Natural Enemies Attracted:**  
Medium numbers of  
Chalcidoidea. Small numbers  
of *Plagiognathus politus*,  
*Coccinellidae*, *Cantharidae*,  
*Chlamydatus associatus*,  
*Chrysopidae* and *Sphecidae*.

**Pests Attracted:** Medium  
numbers of lygus bugs. Small numbers of leafhoppers, leaf  
beetles and aphids.

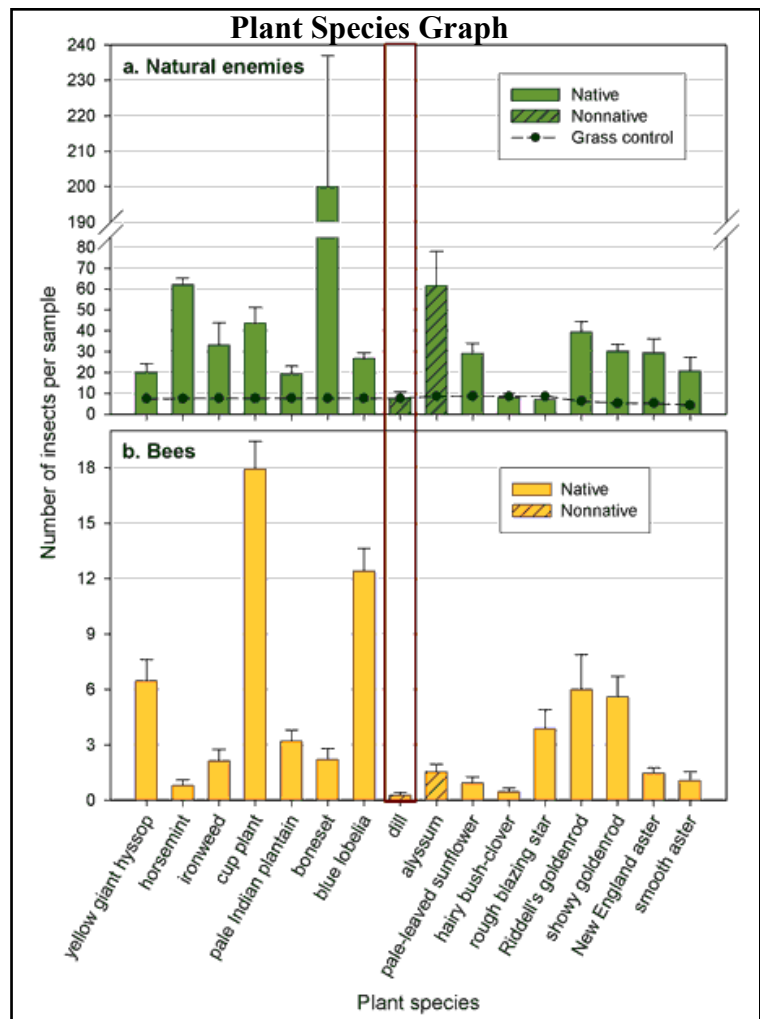
**Bees attracted:** Low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square  
in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees and small  
carpenter bees.



**Species Notes:** This annual herb has been previously recommended to provide nectar and pollen to natural enemies. Plants grew to 4 ft tall and put out flat, airy yellow flower heads to form a fragrant blanket at the top of long stalks. This species bloomed from mid-August to mid-September. This plant was the second least attractive to natural enemies of the late season plants, 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). Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) 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:** Native to southwestern Asia, is naturalized in many parts of the northern US and Europe. Dill does best in full sun, with well drained soil and adequate water. It may bolt quickly to flower during a prolonged dry spell.

**Cultivation and Management:** Fast growing and easy to cultivate; easily grown from seed. In hot weather it flowers and goes to seed quickly. Sow dill seeds where they will be grown about the time of the last expected frost. Dill frequently self sows, so is likely to persist in a location where it is seeded. We saw no evidence of deer or other vertebrate browsing on this species, but in 2005, swallowtail caterpillars did eat quite a few seedlings when they were about 6 inches tall.

**Availability:** Species is available as seed through some seed catalogs.

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

