

# nodding ladies' tresses

*Spiranthes cernua*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Liliopsida  
Order: Orchidales  
Family: Orchidaceae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## FEATURES

Nodding ladies' tresses is a perennial herb. Its leaves are arranged alternately along the stem, and basal leaves are also present. Each simple leaf is entire and linear. White flowers are borne in a long spike. The six-parted flowers curve downward and are arranged in a double spiral. The fruit is a capsule. Nodding ladies' tresses may attain a height of six to 18 inches.

## BEHAVIORS

Nodding ladies' tresses may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in upland forests, thickets, sand prairies, wetlands and fields. Flowers are produced from August through October. Pollination is carried out by bees, while the seeds are dispersed by wind. Fire is beneficial to the sand prairie form.



flowers

## ILLINOIS RANGE



© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2021. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.

Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



### **Aquatic Habitats**

marshes; peatlands; wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge; sand prairie