

## nodding ladies' tresses *Spiranthes cernua*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: 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.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

marshes; peatlands; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge; sand prairie

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