

# nodding onion

## *Allium cernuum*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Liliopsida  
Order: Liliales  
Family: Liliaceae

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### FEATURES

Nodding onion is also known as nodding wild onion or wild onion. This perennial herb grows from a bulb. Its leaves develop at the base of the plant. Each leaf is simple and entire. The leaf shape may be linear, oblong or lanceolate. Flowers are produced in an umbrellalike cluster at the tip of the flowering stalk. The pink or white flower clusters are bent downward at the stem tip, giving rise to the “nodding” description in the common name. The fruit is a capsule. Nodding onion may attain a height of one to two feet.

### BEHAVIORS

Nodding onion may be found in northeastern Illinois. It grows in rocky soil, open woods, wooded banks and prairies. Flowers are produced from July through September.



plant with flowers

### ILLINOIS RANGE





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**Aquatic Habitats**

none

**Woodland Habitats**

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie