

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.

HABITATS

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

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