



***Veronicastrum virginicum* – Culver’s Root**

COMMON NAME: Culver’s Root, False Veronica

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Veronicastrum virginicum* - the suffix *astrum* means false, and the common name honors Dr. Culver who prescribed the plant as an effective laxative.

FLOWER COLOR: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late June through July

SIZE: Large herb, 3-5 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Perennial. When planted in areas similar to wet or mesic (well drained) prairies the plants will spread readily. It is best propagated by division since the seeds are difficult to germinate. Divide mature plants making sure the each section has a bud and root.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Wet to dry, open woods, wet-mesic prairie, shaded rocky slopes. Growth is best in rich loamy soil.

NATURAL RANGE: Throughout Wisconsin, except the far north. New England to Manitoba, south to South Carolina, Mississippi and eastern Texas. It is listed as endangered in Vermont and threatened in Massachusetts and New York.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Flowers are on distinctive slender spikes that resemble candelabra. Leaves occur in whorls of three or four.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water sufficiently the first year. Seems to thrive in moist areas with plenty of sunshine.

COMPANION PLANTS: Lead plant, heath aster, shooting star, rattlesnake master, flowering spurge, sawtooth sunflower, wild bergamot, mountain mint, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan, compass plant, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, cordgrass, prairie dropseed and golden Alexanders.