

## ***Allium cernuum* - Nodding Wild Onion**

COMMON NAME: Nodding Wild Onion

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Allium cernuum* – from Latin for “onion” and *cernuum* meaning “nodding” or “drooping”.

FLOWER: Several rose to white flowers in a cluster that droops

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to August

SIZE: 12 to 18 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Plant in large groups. Does not like heavy competition from grasses.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Needs sun and alkaline soils. This is a plant that can tolerate black walnut trees. Look for it in prairies, hillsides, rocky, sandy, loamy soil.

NATURAL RANGE: From New York west to Washington and Oregon, south to Georgia, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. In Wisconsin it is mostly found in the southern part of the state.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This plant has an onion-shaped bulb and grass-like leaves. It smells like an onion. The fact that the flower umbels hang down tends to restrict insect visitors to bees.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well when first planted. Seeds germinate well if moist stratified (surface of the seed is scratched and the seed is soaked some).

COMPANION PLANTS: Little bluestem, prairie phlox, spiderwort, purple prairie clover. In moist areas it grows with mountain mint, Riddell’s goldenrod, and prairie dropseed.