



## ***Allium stellatum*- Prairie Onion**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Onion, Autumn Onion, Pink Wild Onion, Prairie Wild Onion, Glade Onion, Cliff Onion, Ladies Leek.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Allium* is from Latin for garlic. *Stellatum* means star shaped.

FLOWER: 1½ to 2 inch round globe of ¼ inch flowers, pale pink to pinkish purple with spot of yellow in the center. Bloom is held upright on the stalk

BLOOMING PERIOD: Blooms during July to August.

SIZE: 8 to 18 inches

BEHAVIOR: The flowers develop seeds and the bulbs multiply.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Thrives in dry, open sandy or limestone rocky prairie in full to partial sun.

NATURAL RANGE: In Wisconsin it has been found in the far northwestern counties, and in Wood, Waushara, Dane and Rock counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: It is deer resistant. It is ideal for rock gardens. Bulbs and leaves may be eaten in small amounts. Low toxicity warning due to presence of sulfides.

SUGGESTED CARE: Prepare the soil in early spring, add mulch and a handful of bone meal. Plant at least 4 inches deep, but not more than 8 inches. The seeds take several years to form bulbs and bloom so bulb division is the best way to propagate. The onion will decline in competition with taller more aggressive plants. Prefers moist well drained soil. Easy care.

COMPANION PLANTS: Purple Coneflower, Prairie Dropseed, Side Oats Grama, Rattlesnake Master.

NOTE: Similar to Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*) whose flower hangs downward instead of upward.