

Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

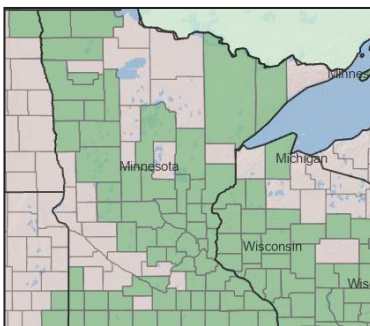
Family: Plantain (Plantaginaceae)

DESCRIPTION: A tall native perennial of floodplains, woodland edges and mesic prairies, Culver's root sends up showy spikes of white tubular flowers that bloom from June to August, attracting bees, flies and butterflies.

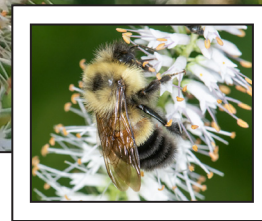
USES: The plant can add an attractive vertical element to rain gardens and residential pollinator gardens. Leafcutter bees and **rusty patched bumblebees** (pictured) are among the pollinators the flowers attract during their long blooming period. The plant is a larval host for the Culver's root borer moth. Tribes historically used Culver's root for a variety of medicinal purposes, including to treat coughs and fevers.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, Second Edition; Henry Gleason, Arthur Cronquist; New York Botanical Garden Press
[Blue Thumb Plant Finder](#)
[U.S. Forest Service](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



Planting Recommendations

Culver's root can be established via seeding, or planting containerized plants. The species can also be transplanted in early spring or fall. It prefers full to partial sun, and moist to moderately moist soil. Seeds should be stratified before sowing. Plants grown from seed will flower in their

second year. Culver's root is often deer resistant. It can tolerate moderate flooding, which is why it is ideal for rain gardens, shoreline buffers, wet meadows and streambank restorations. Good companion plants include asters, bee balm, cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, goldenrods and ironweed.

STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: FAC

ID: Culver's root grows 3 to 6 feet tall, with a terminal flower spike consisting of white, half-inch-long tubular flowers with protruding, rust colored stamens. Its lanced-shaped, sharply serrated leaves grow in whorls of three to six.

SIMILAR SPECIES: White turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), which also grows in moist conditions, produces densely packed flower spikes atop the main stem. Its opposite leaves distinguish the species.

Developed by Erin Loeffler, a University of Minnesota Extension volunteer master gardener, and an ecological science conservationist with BWSR



Plant Photo Credit: Erin Loeffler
Insect Photo Credit: Heather Holm