GROUNDCOVER, WILDFLOWER & FERN-LOCATIONS



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NODDING WILD ONION

NODDING WILD ONION 'ALLIUM CERNUUM'

FLOWER STAGE [1]

SEED STAGE [2]





NOTES [A,B,C]

Nodding Wild Onion, also known as lady's leek is an uncommon plant that occurs in the Northeast portion of Illinois where it is native. It grows in upland deciduous forests, open woods, and wooded banks. Nodding Wild Onion was given the name "Chigagou" by the Miami and Algonquin Native Americans. It is disputed by many that the city of Chicago's name originates from this reference, as it was indeed originally a marsh land full of many onions, including Nodding Wild Onion.

The tiny bell-shaped, pink to lilac or even white flower clusters are bent downward at the stem tip, giving rise to the "nodding" description and hence its common name. Like all the Allium species, Nodding Wild Onion has a pungent smell when crushed or bruised. Grows best in full or partial sun with bulbs or individual plants placed 6" – 12" inches apart or on 1' foot centers are recommended, as it will gradually spread by seed and bulb offshoots and over time will form colonies in suitable sites.

HEIGHT: '1' - 2' / WIDTH: 6" - 1

NORTHERN MAIDENHAIR FERN

NORTHERN MAIDENHAIR FERN 'ADIANTUM PEDATUM'

SPRING [3]

SUMMER [4]





NOTES [A,D,E]

The native Maidenhair Fern has delicate green fronds on a thin glossy reddish-brown to black or dark purple wiry stem that will spread out in a fan-shaped horizontal spiral. Native Americans made use of these fibrous stems woven into baskets. Native to the rich wooded slopes and damp shady woodlands, the emerging unfurling fiddleheads in the spring are reddish-purple to pink.

Preferring rich wooded slopes and damp shady woodland habits it thrives in well-drained to slightly damp soil in part-shade to full-shade. Maidenhair ferns spread through its slowly branching rhizomes to form dense patches over time. Plants are recommended to be spaced 1' – 2' feet apart.

HEIGHT: 1' - 2' / WIDTH: 1' - 2'

VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS

VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS 'MERTENSIA VIRGINICA'

EARLY-SPRING [5]

LATE-SPRING [6]





NOTES [A,C,F]

Virginia Bluebells or simply "Bluebells" are one of the earliest native spring ephemerals with "bell" shaped blooms lasting for several weeks. The flower buds start-off as pink and gradually develop into a shade of light lavender-blue as they come into full bloom. The emerging leaf shoots of this woodland wildflower have a deep purple hue, that transitions to bright green as they continue to grow. Thereafter, the remaining leaf portion of the plant eventually goes dormant around midsummer until it returns the following spring.

Bluebells are a colonizing, herbaceous perennial that prefers a habit around a pond or stream margin and/or part-shade to shaded woodland environment. Plants primarily spread through self-seeding and by a network of underground rhizomes which allows them to slowly expand their colonies over time. Plant spacing is recommended to be from 1' – 2' feet apart.

HEIGHT: 1' - 2' / WIDTH: 1' - 2

WILD LEEK

WILD LEEK 'ALLIUM TRICOCCUM'

SPRING [7]

SEED STAGE [8]





NOTES [A,G,H,I]

Wild Leeks, also called "Ramps" are a spring ephemeral, often used as an indicator species to identify original or minimally disturbed woodland sites. In early spring 2 or 3 three basal leaves emerge from an underground bulb. Young plants send up smooth, broad leaves that die back as the tree canopy closes, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches the Ramps. Hardwood leaves provide the best-mulch protection for Ramps.

Wild Leeks prefer typical woodland conditions with dappled sunlight that sustains the plant's foliage in early spring and deeper shade as the tree's leaf out and while the plant flowers. As the summer months progress, the white flower-stage blossoms dry and pearly black seeds begin to appear. These seedheads will often persist throughout the fall and winter months. From these seeds and with successful germination, it can take 5 – 7 years to produce a mature plant. Fall and early spring is the best transplanting window. Spacing individual plants on 1' foot centers is recommended.

HEIGHT: 6"- 1' / WIDTH: 1' - 2

WILD ONION

WILD ONION 'ALLIUM CANADENSE'

SPRING [9]

SEED STAGE [10]





NOTES [A,G,J,K]

Wild Onion, 'Allium canadense occurs in every county of Illinois and is the most common species of native onion. Also known as Canada onion, Canadian Garlic, Wild Garlic and Meadow Garlic, it is a perennial plant that forms grass-like clumps of leaves. They are one of the first plants to develop leaves during the spring. This early spring ephemeral herb becomes topped with rounded clusters of star-shaped pink or white flowers that bloom from late spring into summer.

Habitats include moist to mesic black soil woodlands and along stream banks or gullies on thinly wooded hillsides. This plant does not compete well against taller forbs but rather prefers areas with less ground cover. This plant grows in light shade in wooded areas, but is less likely to flower and instead only aerial bulblets are produced. Wild Onion spreads readily by means of these bulblets and offsets with spacing of individual plants on 1' foot centers being recommended.

HEIGHT: 6" - 1' / WIDTH: 1' - 2

WILD STRAWBERRY

WILD STRAWBERRY 'FRAGARIA VIRGINIANA'

SPRING [11]

FALL [12]





NOTES [A,D,LM]

Wild Strawberry, also known as Scarlet Strawberry and Virginia Strawberry, is a cool-season plant that grows actively during spring and fall but often becomes dormant after setting fruit during the hot summer months. This ground-hugging herbaceous perennial has attractive tiny white flowers that bloom among trifoliate leaves in late spring followed by bright red berries that appear in early summer.

Wild strawberry grows in a wide variety of sun and soil conditions from full-sun to nearly full-shade. It habits areas such as prairies, meadows, fields, on moist ground, along the edge of woods, woodland openings and on hillsides. It is an excellent choice for growing on slopes for erosion control or in a woodland garden. This colony-forming ground cover spreads easily by runners to form large patches and in the fall-has an attractive kaleidoscope of leaf color. Spacing individual plants on 1' foot centers is recommended.

HEIGHT: 6" - 1' / WIDTH: 1" - 18"

SOURCES

Photo Credit

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- [12] https://www.bluestemnatives.com/product-page/fragaria-virginiana-wild-strawberry

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- [H] https://www.minnesotowildflowers.info/
- [I] https://www.prairienursery.com/
- [J] https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm
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- [L] https://www.gardenia.net/
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Plugs shall be installed prior to June 30th or other date (Fall?) guaranteed by the Contractor.

- Plugs shall be planted on 1' centers in approximate 8 foot by 6 foot pods as directed by the Park District. g. Final plug pod locations are to be determined in the field by the Contractor and approved by the Park District prior to planting. h. Locations of plug pods shall be marked with tape and lathe in the field after planting.
- Native Groundcover, Wildflower and Fern plugs shall be installed in 10 pods throughout the project area, with 48 plugs in each pod, consisting of 16 plugs per species as listed below (Plug pod species distribution table).

KEY:

ALLCER - Nodding Wild Onion - 5/80

ADIPED - Northern Maidenhair Fern - 5/80

MERVIR - Virginia Bluebell - 5/80

ALLTRI – Wild Leak – 5/80

ALLCAN - Wild Onion - 5/80

FRAVIR - Wild Strawberry - 5/80

Total = 480

13	Installation of Wild Leek 'Allium tricoccum' (plugs- year 2)	80	Each	
14	Installation of Nodding Wild Onion 'Allium cernuum' (plugs-year 2)	80	Each	
15	Installation of Wild Onion 'Allium canadense' (plugs- year 2)	76	Each	
16	Installation of Wild Strawberry 'Fragaria virginiana' (plugs-year 2)	80	Each	
17	Installation of Northern Maidenhair Fern 'Adiantum pedatum' (plugs-year 2)	80	Each	
18	Installation of Virginia Bluebells 'Mertensia virginica' (plugs year 2)	80	Each	