

Alum root

Heuchera americana L.

Group: Dicot

Family: Saxifragaceae
(saxifrage)

Growth Habit: Forb/herb

Duration: Perennial

U.S. Nativity: Native, much
of eastern U.S.

Natural Enemies

Attracted: Small numbers of
[Chalcidoidea](#).

Pests Attracted: Small
numbers of aphid, thrips and
lygus bugs.

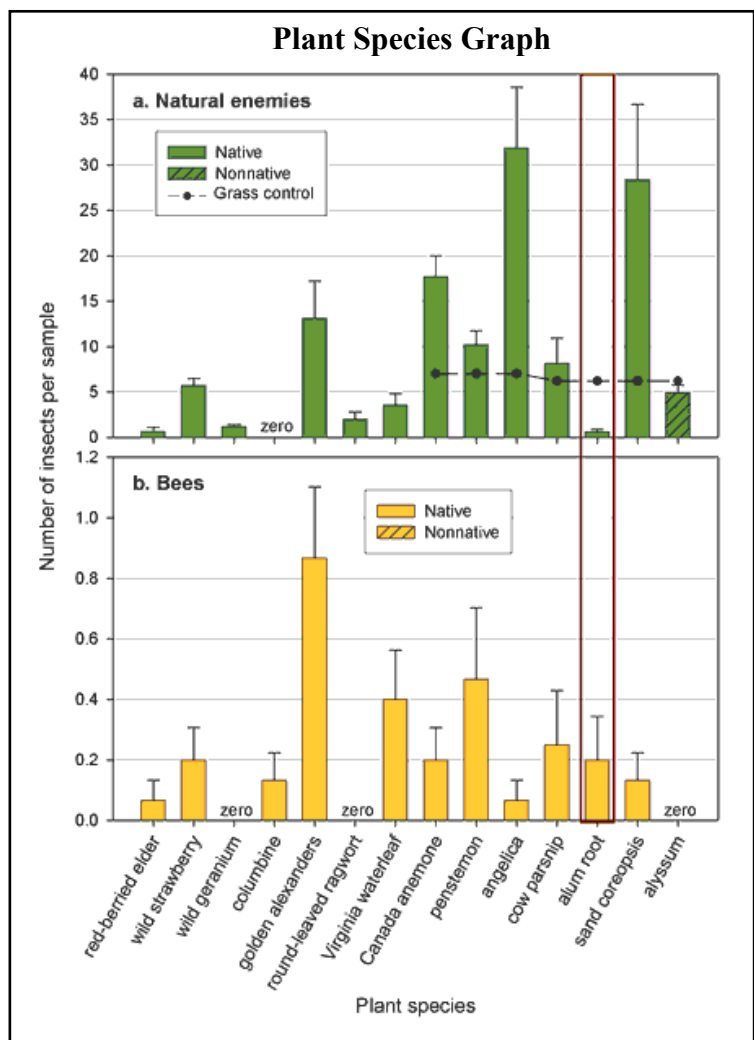
Bees attracted: Low
numbers (less than 1 bee per
meter square in a 30 second
sample) of sweat bees.



Species Notes: Small, inconspicuous green flowers bloom along flowering stalks up to 3 ft tall. Dark-green leaves grow from the plant base to less than 1 ft tall. Plants filled in the study area in their third year of growth, and bloomed throughout June. This species was one of the least attractive to natural enemies in the early season, with less than half as many natural enemies as in the grass control.

About the Plant Species Graph:

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). Alum root (*Heuchera americana*) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



Habitat: Includes mostly sun to mostly shade, and mid-range soil moisture (neither very wet nor very dry). Naturally occurring in deciduous woods. Often found on dry or damp banks or ravines.

Cultivation and Management: Can be grown from seed (flowers in third year) or plug material (flowers in second year). This species is low growing and may be used as a groundcover.

Availability: Obtainable as plug and container grown material; no commercial seed sources of Michigan genotype are currently available. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

For more information: View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

