

## Wild strawberry, Virginia strawberry

# *Fragaria virginiana* Duchesne

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Rosaceae (rose)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native

**Natural Enemies Attracted:** Medium numbers of Chalcidoidea. Small numbers of Salticidae, Braconidae, Empididae, Ichneumonidae and Cynipoidea.

**Pests Attracted:** Medium numbers of leafhoppers. Small numbers of thrips, froghoppers, weevils, aphids and root-maggot flies.

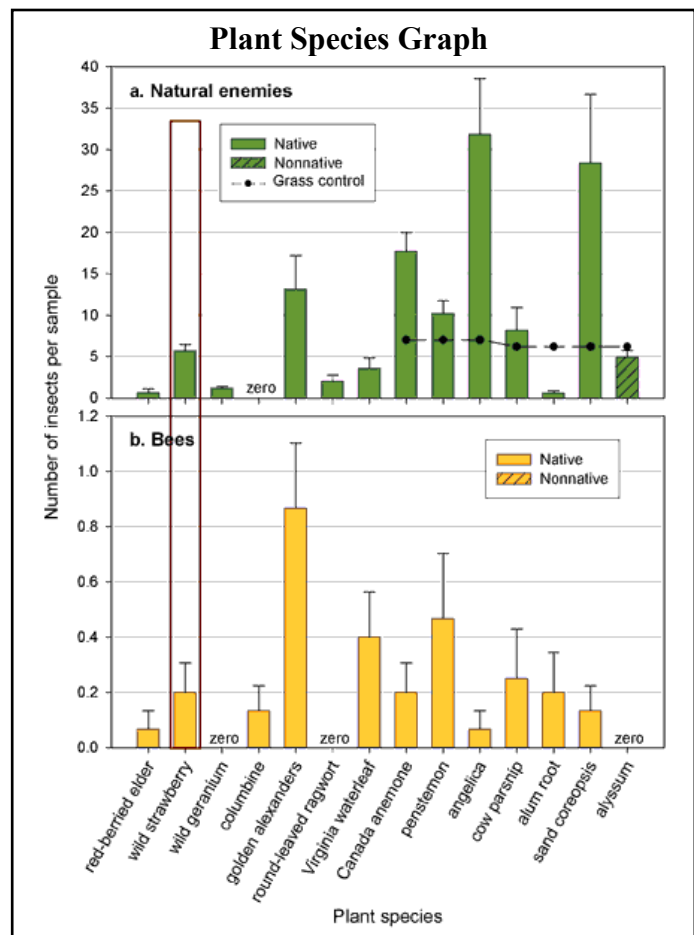
**Bees attracted:** Low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees and small carpenter bees.



**Species Notes:** Small white blossoms open on this low-growing leafy plant. Wild strawberry filled in well in the first year from plug material, as plants spread with runners throughout the growing season. This species bloomed in the second half of May. The plant bears small strawberries in June that are edible. Wild strawberry was the seventh most attractive early season plant to natural enemies, and more attractive than any other plants blooming in May.

### 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). Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) 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:** Tolerance includes full sun to partial shade, and mid-range soil moisture (neither very wet nor very dry). This species grows well in a variety of soils and light conditions. It is often found in dry, sunny places, and is naturally occurring in woods and clearings, as well as along roadsides and in fields. Map indicates plant distribution by state.

**Cultivation and Management:** Flowers from seed in second year or third. Also can be grown from plug material (flowers in first or second year). This plant is an easy to establish ground cover. The fact that it spreads both by runners and seed makes it a good candidate for large areas with a great deal of space. Although the plant has potential to move into agricultural fields, it is unlikely to persist in cultivated soil. Wild strawberry will also spread by seed.

**Availability:** This species is available as plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. Due to the difficulty in separating the seeds from the fruit, seed is not available commercially. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

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

