|  |
| --- |
| false garlic |
| *Nothoscordum bivalve* (L.) Britt. |
| Plant Symbol = NOBI2 |

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Nacagdoches (TX) Technical Office



© Jane Villa-Lobos

Smithsonian Institution-Botany

@ plants.usda.gov

Alternate Names

Crowpoison, *Allium bivalve*, crow-poison

Uses

It is grazed by livestock, but seldom represents a significant percentage of diet due to low productivity.

Status

This is considered rare or threatened in two Midwest states in 2005. Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant’s current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description and Adaptation

Lily Family (Liliaceae). False garlic is a cool season, native perennial herb and is one of the first plants in Texas to emerge and flower during the spring of the year. The leaves are very narrow (6 to 16 inches long), while the flower stem is round. False garlic typically is from 5-22 inches in height. Flowers are white with a yellow base on the inside, about 1 inch in diameter, and have 6 perianth parts (petals and sepals). This species has two bracts that are located at the base of the inflorescence. This “odorless” species is similar to most other plants in the lily family in that it has a bulb. In the Great Plains, it flowers from April to May.

It is very common in yards, parks, roadsides and pastures. Seldom is it found in cropland fields, due to plowing. False garlic does not tolerate ponded or saturated soils, nor is it commonly found in harsh dry environments. Associated plants in Texas are henbit (*Lamium* *amplexicaule*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.) and bedstraws *(Galium* spp.).

Other similar plants are native onions or garlics (*Allium* spp.), which have a distinctive odor. Similar plants that do not have a distinctive odor are some species of *Narcissus* (daffodils) and star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*). Neither of these have the distinctive two bracts at the base of the inflorescence.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

None known. Contact your local NRCS office for seed sources of this species.

Prepared By:

Lee Davis, USDA NRCS Technical Office #2, Nacagdoches, Texas.

Species Coordinator:

Lee Davis, USDA NRCS Technical Office #2, Nacagdoches, Texas.

Edited: 28sep05 jsp; 060802 jsp

For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site<<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's* [*TARGET Center*](http://www.usda.gov/oo/target.htm) *at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*Read about* [*Civil Rights at the Natural Resources Convervation Service*](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/civilrights/)*.*