

FALSE GARLIC

Nothoscordum bivalve (L.) Britt.

Plant symbol = NOBI2

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Nacagdoches (TX)
Technical Office



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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.

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

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