

## Hoary vervain, Hoary verbena *Verbena stricta* Vent.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Verbenaceae (verbena)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

**Duration:** Annual/Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native

**Natural Enemies Attracted:** Medium numbers of *Orius insidiosus* and *Chalcidoidea*. Small numbers of *Empididae*, *Thomisidae*, *Plagiognathus politus*, *Chrysopidae* and *Nabidae*.

**Pests Attracted:** Medium numbers of Lygus bug and cabbage white butterflies.

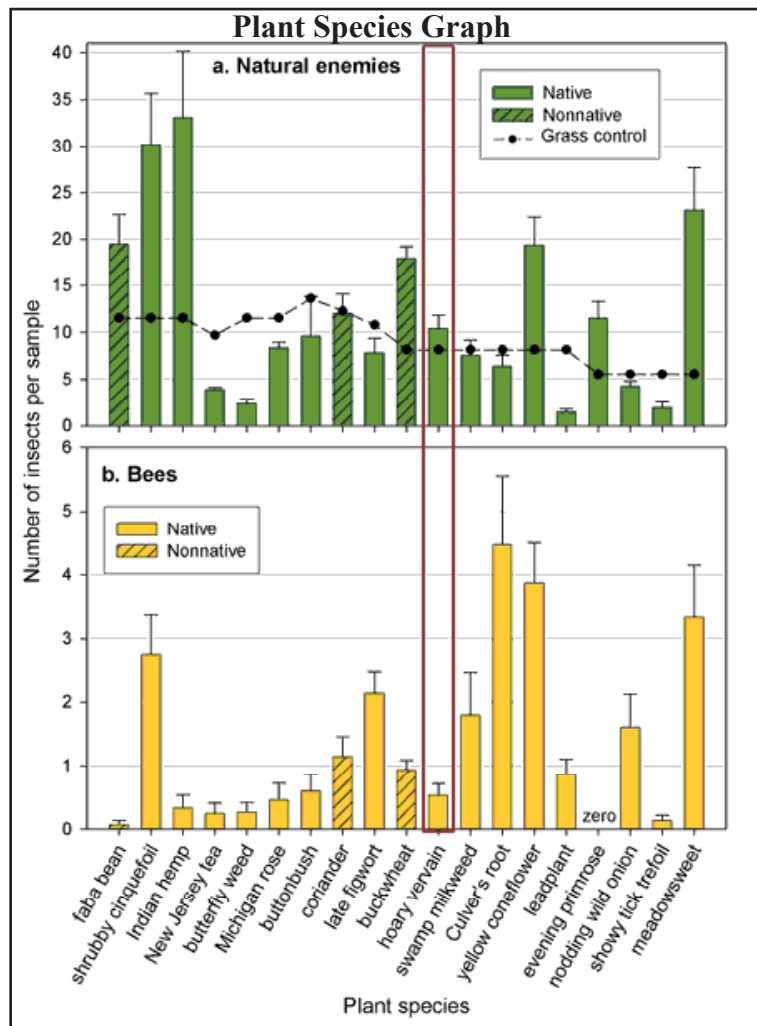
**Bees attracted:** Low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including digger bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees.



**Species Notes:** Small blue to purple flowers on short stalks opened, several at a time, from the bottom up. This plant grew 2-3 ft tall; plants established well and grew thickly, with a large floral display. This species bloomed from mid-July through August. Cabbage white butterflies (pests) were frequently seen at these flowers. This species was the eighth most attractive mid season plant to natural enemies, with slightly more natural enemies than 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). Hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*) 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:** Full sun to partial shade, and dry to moist locations; this plant is very drought tolerant. Naturally occurs in sandy fields and roadsides and along railroads. Map indicates plant distribution by state.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in second or third year) or plug material (flowers in first or second year). We saw no evidence of deer or other vertebrate browsing on this species. A single plant is not very impressive, but in mass, gray-green foliage and attractive flowers make this a very striking plant.

**Availability:** Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

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

