

Plant of the week *Veronicastrum virginicum*, Culver's root

Family: Scrophulariaceae, Figwort Family

Hardiness: Zone 4-9

Culver's root is an eastern North American wildflower. It is a versatile, long lived herbaceous perennial, happy in either sun or partial shade. It forms tall clumps of deep green lanceolate leaves and magnificent spikes of white or pinkish flowers. It is a stalwart of the later summer garden, blooming in my garden in late July and early August. It was formerly known as *Veronica virginica*.



Culver's root is tall 120-180cm and best placed in the back of a bed where it provides good texture. Its clumps can measure 75cm. It is well-behaved and does particularly well near water. When in bloom it looks like spray from a fountain. It does well in average to moist soil, attracts butterflies and is deer resistant.

The candles of blooms are also excellent cut flowers. The picture below was a flower arrangement featuring culver's root made for a 65th anniversary party.

