

Pale Indian plantain

Cacalia atriplicifolium (L.) H.E. Robins

Group: Dicot

Family: Asteraceae
(aster)

Growth Habit: Forb/
herb

Duration: Perennial

U.S. Nativity: Native to
much of eastern U.S.

Natural Enemies

Attracted: Medium
numbers of [*Orius*](#)
[*insidiosus*](#), [*Chalcidoidea*](#),
and [*Cantharidae*](#). Small
numbers of [*Thomisidae*](#),
[*Plagiognathus politus*](#),
[*Coccinellidae*](#), Sphecidae,
[*Empididae*](#), [*Cynipoidea*](#)
and [*Syrphidae*](#).

Pests Attracted: Small
numbers of lygus bug,
leafhoppers, leaf beetles
and weevils.

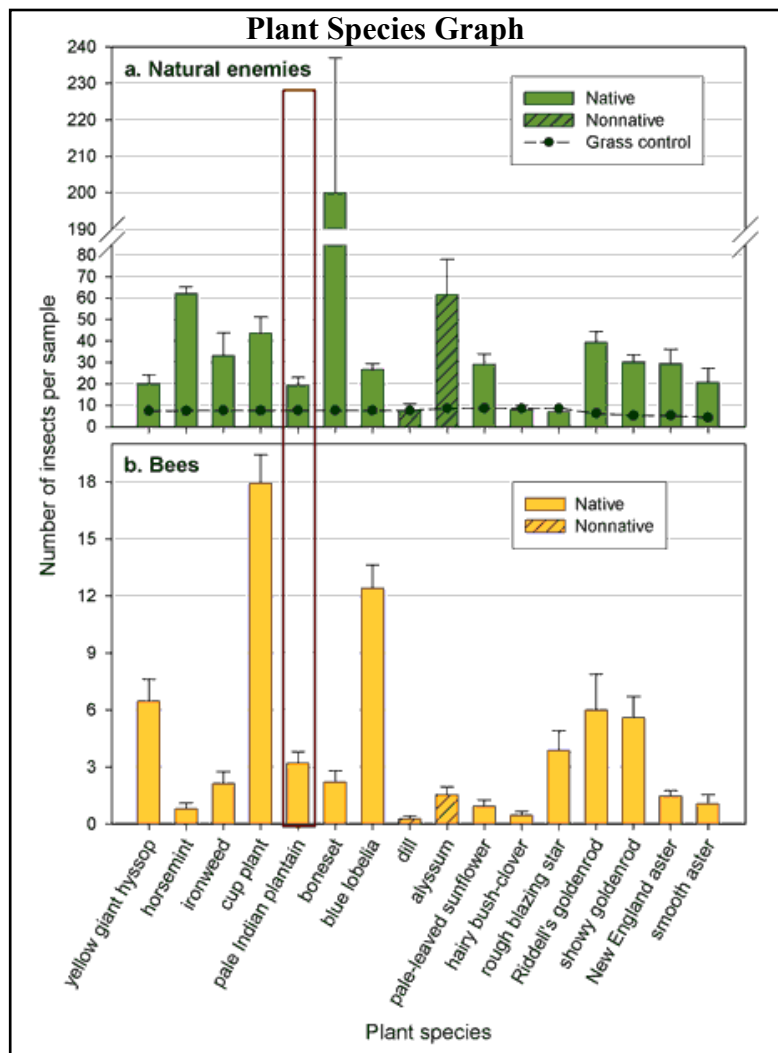
Bees attracted: Moderate numbers (between 1-5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees, digger bees, and bumble bees.

Species Notes: Flat, off-white flower clusters 2-6 inches wide are at the top of plants that grow 3-7 ft tall. Large succulent-looking leaves grow from one main stalk and are pale underneath. Plants bloomed throughout August. This species was one of the less attractive to natural enemies in the late season.



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). Pale Indian plantain (*Cacalia atriplicifolium*) 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 very dry to average soil moisture. Naturally occurring in dry areas with open or partially shaded ground. Found in river floodplain forests, creek banks, and prairies. Often associated with oaks found on dunes.

Cultivation and Management: Can be grown from seed (flowers in second year) or plug material (flowers in first year).

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

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

