

wild senna *Senna hebecarpa*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Wild senna has compound leaves with five to 10 pairs of leaflets. The plant may reach six feet in height. The flowers develop in clusters in the leaf axils and are yellow. There is a small gland shaped like a club at the base of each leafstalk. The fruit is a pod containing seeds.

BEHAVIORS

Wild senna grows along streams, in fens and in open woodlands statewide. Flowers are produced from July through August. The club-shaped gland releases nectar that attracts ants, ladybird beetles and flies. Bumble bees and other bees are attracted to the flowers, while several species of butterfly and moth larvae eat the foliage.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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