

Corn snakeroot

(*Eryngium aquaticum*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Corn snakeroot blooms vary in color from a pale whitish-blue to a rich lavender or cornflower blue. Flowerheads are about 1/2" to 1" in diameter, globular and are surrounded by spiny bracts. They are borne near the tops of multi-branched, erect stems. Leaves are sessile, linear and alternately arranged. Leaf margins are entire or may be finely toothed.

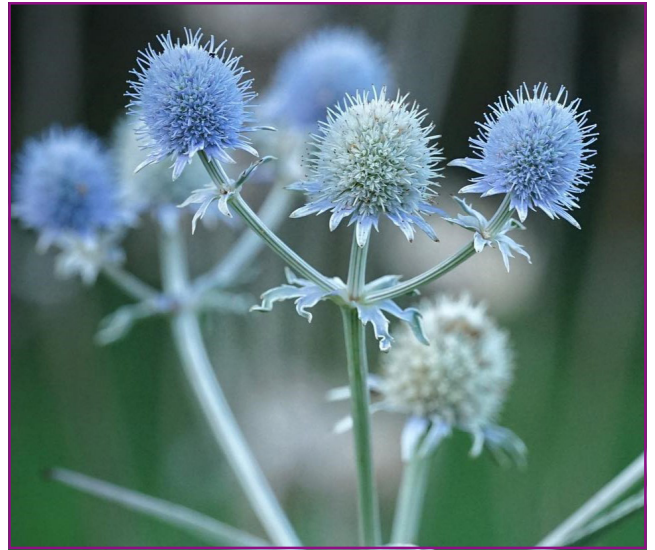


Photo by Emily Bell

Corn snakeroot typically flowers summer through late fall. A variety of pollinators are attracted to its flowers. It occurs naturally in sunny marshes and swamps, along pond edges and in ditches.

The common name snakeroot (also known as rattlesnakemaster, both of which are used to describe the *Eryngium* genus) may have come from its use in Native American culture as a remedy for snakebite.

Family: Apiaceae (or Umbelliferae) (Carrot or parsley family)

Native range: Eastern and central Panhandle, Santa Rosa County, several counties in north and central peninsula

To see where natural populations of Corn snakeroot have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Short-lived perennial

Soil: Moist to wet, acidic soils

Exposure: Full sun to moderate shade

Growth habit: 3–5' tall

Propagation: Seed

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North, Central

Garden tips: Corn snakeroot can make a nice addition to a mixed wildflower garden attracting a wide variety of pollinators but may also be a bit challenging to maintain. It is not drought tolerant and requires consistently moist to wet soil. Additionally, as a short-lived perennial that does not reseed abundantly plants may need to be replaced periodically.

Corn snakeroot is sometimes available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area.

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