

YELLOW-EYED GRASS: *Xyridaceae*

Plants of wet areas with grass-like, basal leaves. The stiff, unbranched flower stalk holds the cone-like flower head of brown bracts. The 3 roundish, yellow petals surrounded by 3 unequal sepals protrude from the top of the "cone."



SLENDER YELLOW-EYED GRASS

Xyris torta

Xyris: Greek *xyron* for "razor," referring to a plant with 2-edged leaves
torta: *tortus* for "twisted, crooked"

Status: Native (10)

Plant: Erect perennial, up to 4' tall

Flower: Yellow, 3-parted; arranged in a **many-flowered, cone-like** spike which matures **to more than 1/8"**; blooms May-July

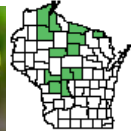
Leaf: Basal, mostly linear, 4"-40", **smooth**

Habitat: Wet; in acid soil, often in bogs



NORTHERN YELLOW-EYED GRASS

X. montana (10), *montana*: of mountains
Few-flowered spikes less than 1/8",
leaves rough.



IRIS: *Iridaceae*

Showy flowers with sepals and petals similar or only slightly different as in Iris. Leaves narrow, stiff, parallel-veined. 3 stamens, 3 sepals and 3 petals.

BLACKBERRY-LILY *Belamcanda* (1)



Orange flower.

IRIS, FLAG, FLEUR-DE-LYS *Iris* (4)



Petals different from the larger, drooping sepals; flowers large

BLUE-EYED-GRASS *Sisyrinchium* (4)

Petals the same as the sepals; flowers small



BLACKBERRY-LILY, LEOPARD-FLOWER *Belamcanda chinensis*

Belamcanda: East Indian name of this species
chinensis: of or referring to China

Status: Introduced - escaped

Plant: Perennial, 12"-24" tall

Flower: Orange spotted with red or purple, 6-parted, 1 1/2" wide, only one blooms each day; arranged in a widely-branching cluster of stalked flowers; blooms June-July

Fruit: Capsule opening to reveal a blackberry-like cluster of fleshy seeds

Leaf: Narrow, sword-like

Habitat: Disturbed areas, roadsides, thickets



DWARF LAKE IRIS

Iris lacustris

Iris: for the Greek goddess of the rainbow
lacustris: of or pertaining to lakes

Status: **Threatened** (Federally Threatened) (10)

Plant: Erect perennial, **2"-3"** tall

Flower: Blue, 6-parted, 2" wide, mostly **stalkless**;
blooms May-June

Fruit Capsule

Leaf: Arching, **greater than 1/8"** wide, linear

Habitat: Woods often under white cedar, Lake Michigan shores;
in limy, gravelly soil



IRIS: Iridaceae



YELLOW WATER IRIS OR FLAG



Iris pseudacorus

pseudacorus: *pseudo* for “false” and *Acorus*, generic name of the wetland plant, “sweet-flag”

Status: Introduced - escaped; potentially invasive

Plant: Erect perennial, semi-aquatic 2'-3' tall; stems usually shorter than the leaves; roots densely crowded rhizomes

Flower: **Yellow**, 6-parted, 4" wide, petals much shorter than the sepals; blooms May-June

Leaf: Narrow, stiff, erect, sword-like

Habitat: Wet; shallows, shores



NORTHERN BLUE FLAG

Iris versicolor

versicolor: variously colored



Status: Native (5)

Plant: Erect perennial, semi-aquatic to emergent, 2'-3' tall; stems equal to or slightly taller than the leaves; roots stout, sometimes partially exposed rhizomes

Flower: Blue to purple, 6-parted, 4" wide, short-stalked, either **no spot or a greenish-yellow spot** at the base of the sepals; flower cluster held above the leaves; blooms June-July

Fruit: 3-angled, **cylindrical capsule**

Leaf: Sword-shaped, cross-section V-shaped, in flat, fan-shaped clusters

Habitat: Full to partial sun; wet; meadows, stream banks, water less than 40" deep; in sandy, loamy soil



BLUE FLAG, SHREVE'S OR VIRGINIA IRIS

Iris virginica

virginica: of Virginia



Status: Native (5)

Plant: Erect perennial, semi-aquatic 1'-3' tall with usually 1-3 spreading branches; creeping, often colony-forming rhizomes

Flower: Blue to purple, 6-parted, 3" wide, short-stalked; **hairy, bright yellow spot** at the base of the sepals; blooms May-July

Fruit: 3-angled, **elliptical to oval capsule**

Leaf: Widely linear to sword-shaped, erect or arching

Habitat: Full to partial sun; wet; meadows, streambanks; in sandy, loamy soil



PRAIRIE BLUE-EYED GRASS

Sisyrinchium campestre

Sisyrinchium: Greek *sys* for “pig;” *rynchos* for “snout;” referring to a pig grubbing the roots for food
campestre: Latin meaning “of the fields”



Status: Native (7)

Plant: Erect perennial, 4"-16" tall; pale green, smooth, lightening when dry to a yellow-green or olive; **stems distinctly winged**, not wiry, up to 1/8" wide, **unbranched**

Flower: White to pale blue, 6-parted, 1/2"-1" wide; petal-like tepals with yellow bases, tips rounded to notched with a sharp point; arranged in 1 cluster near the **top of the stem** surrounded by usually **stalkless, green to purplish sheaths** (spathe) that are **not connected at the base**; blooms May-July

Fruit: Small, roundish, light to dark brown capsule

Leaf: Narrow, almost as wide as the stems, smooth

Habitat: Dry to moderate moisture; meadows, prairies, open woods