



IRIS FAMILY

IRIDACEAE.

Blue-eyed Grass. Blue-eyed Mary.

Sisyrinchium angustifolium.

Found, during June and July, in moist meadows and pastures amidst grasses.

A few leaves and the flower-stem, from 4 to 8 inches in height, rise from the root.

The leaf is like a grass-blade, fine-pointed, flat, and very thin, especially along the margins ; it is slightly ridged with veins, and is smooth. In color, a strong green with a hint of blue.



The 6 petal-like parts of the flower are oblong and blunt-pointed, with an abrupt sharp tip ; their texture is thin, and they spread widely.

The coloring is charming, a pale or dark blue, with purple markings, and a central design in yellow daintily outlined in purple ; the prominent pistil is yellow at the base, and purple above, while its 3-cleft tip is orange. Two or three flowers are closely grouped on a little foot-stem which rises from betwixt two sheath-like leaves set on the summit of the rigidly upright flower-stem. This stem is furnished with thin sword-like margins.

Though not found in abundance generally, this is not an uncommon plant, and occasionally a meadow may be found which every June morning is turned to a sea of blue, like a flax field for fullness of coloring, and every succeeding afternoon becomes green again, because this little Iris shuts her blue eye by mid-day. But one flower blooms on a plant at a time.

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BLUE-EYED GRASS: *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*.

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North-Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895
Nomenclature and Families updated.