

Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



Despite its name, this charming, low-profile **native*** perennial is actually a member of the Iris family. Its dense, tufted clumps of sword-shaped leaves increase in size over time, and it can spread in optimum conditions to cover small areas and edge paths. Dainty, star-shaped blue flowers create a showy display from April to June.

Perennial	Clump, Flower Close-up, December Foliage	
Height: ½–1 foot		
Spread: ½–1 foot		
Bloom Color: Blue or blue-violet with yellow centers		
Characteristics		
Clump-forming, semi-evergreen , herbaceous perennial		
Alternate , linear, sword-shaped, grass-like foliage		
Inflorescences borne singly; flowers w/ six sharply-pointed tepals & yellow eye w/ purplish margin and two green spathes on alate scapes (stalks) April–June		
Three-celled capsules release small black seeds		
Freely self-seeds in optimum conditions; fibrous roots , cespitose (grows in dense tufts)		
Attributes		
Tolerates drought after establishment; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage		
Ethnobotanic uses—Native Americans cooked and ate spring greens		
Attracts sweat bees, bumble bees, syrphid flies, butterflies; songbirds eat seeds		
Growing and Maintenance Tips		Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Poor to average, well-drained		Liriope muscari , L. spicata – Liriope
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade		Myosotis – Forget-me-not
Water Requirements : Moist (consistently)		Scilla siberica – Siberian Squill
Water regularly to establish; may go dormant in extreme drought		
Avoid heavy mulch ; divide every 2–3 years		
Use in border fronts or rock gardens, as edging for paths, or naturalized in woodland gardens		
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4a–9b	*It appears to be common throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, VA