



***Sisyrinchium campestre* – Blue-Eyed Grass**

COMMON NAME: Blue-eyed grass

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sisyrinchium campestre* – This name comes from two Greek words: *sys* for “pig”, *rynchos* for “snout”, referring to a pig grubbing the roots for food. *Campestre* comes from Latin meaning “of the fields.”

FLOWER: Delicate light blue, with a tiny yellow center.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Extended, from May through June.

SIZE: Short, usually less than 1 foot in height.

BEHAVIOR: Forms small clumps with the flowers opening only in full sun, usually early in the day.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: The plant needs a dry site in prairies, meadows and open woods. Closely related species are found in wetter areas.

NATURAL RANGE: Central U.S. from Illinois and Wisconsin west to Manitoba and south to Louisiana and Texas. It is found primarily in southern and western Wisconsin where it occurs most frequently on somewhat dry prairies.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Blue-eyed grass is a member of the Iris family. It has delicate foliage and flowers. The curious little inflated seeds pods make this a particularly interesting plant.

SUGGESTED CARE: Provide full sun. Water well to establish new plants, but then use moderate moisture. Once established little care is necessary.

COMPANION PLANTS: Little bluestem, thimbleweed, side-oats grama, prairie dropseed, shooting star, alum root, prairie clover, downy phlox, needle grass and golden Alexanders.