



***Tradescantia ohiensis* - Spiderwort**

COMMON NAME: Spiderwort, Common Spiderwort, Ohio Spiderwort

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Tradescantia ohiensis* – John Tradescant was a gardener for Charles I of England in the 17th century. The common name comes from the old time belief that this plant would cure spider bites. “Wort” is from the Anglo-Saxon word “wyr̥t” meaning herb or root.

FLOWER COLOR: Blue, but various shades of white, purple and lavender may also be seen.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late May and into July

SIZE: Medium sized plant, 1 to 3 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Reliable perennial on favorable sites. Forms multi-stemmed clumps and may reseed. Individual flowers last only one day – or even less in hot sun.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Well-drained soil. It is tolerant of light shade, but does best in full sun. It seems to be more tolerant of weed killers and can be found along roadsides.

NATURAL RANGE: Found in much of the US east of the Rockies. In Wisconsin it is found mostly in the southern part of the state.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The lovely flowers formed are by 3 petals and have 6 stamens. Tiny hairs on the stamens change color under increasingly acidic conditions, thus indicating the presence of acid precipitation.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well when planting, but after that little care is needed. Protect from rabbits.

COMPANION PLANTS: Little bluestem, butterfly weed, whorled milkweed, sky blue aster, flowering spurge, June grass, coreopsis, wild strawberry, common and hoary pucoons, round-headed bushclover, rough blazing star, prickly pear cactus, black oak, pasture rose, wild bergamot, prairie phlox, black-eyed Susan, blue-eyed grass, needle grass, showy goldenrod.