

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Iris shrevei* – Wild Iris**

COMMON NAME: Wild Iris, Blue Flag

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Iris shrevei* - *Iris* was the Greek goddess of the rainbow. Forrest Shreve (1878-1950) was a botanist who spent much of his life in Arizona studying the desert plants and how water affects them.

FLOWER COLOR: Blue, with a bright yellow pubescent patch at the base of each of the three sepals.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Mid-May to July.

SIZE: Flowering stems are 1 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Grows well in wet locations such as fens and wet prairies, or pond edges. Forms clumps with rhizomes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sunlight and moist soil

NATURAL RANGE: Quebec to Minnesota, south to Kansas and North Carolina

SPECIAL FEATURES: The showiest parts of the flower are the sepals rather than the petals. The yellow patch at the base of the sepals makes the plant especially attractive. Flat, sword-shaped leaves.

COMPANION PLANTS: Meadow-rue and marsh milkweed.