

## **Blue-eyed Grass**

**Family** – Iridaceae (Iris Family)

**Genus/Species** – Sisyrinchium spp.



Photo by Lisa Davenport

**Common Names** – Dotted Blue-eyed Grass, Roadside Blue-eyed Grass, Southern Blue-eyed Grass.

**Pronunciation** – siss-ee-RINK-ee-um

**Plant Type** – perennial.

**Height** – 6-12” tall.

**Width** – space 9” apart.

**Soil Type** – sandy, loam, clay, caliche, dry, limestone, well-drained.

**Light** – dappled shade, part shade, full sun.

**Dormant** – in summer, winter rosettes.

**Moisture** – tolerates dryness but needs low/some moisture with good drainage.

**Growth** – fast.

**Bloom** – March – July. Dies to the ground.

**Colors** – blue/purple, some yellow, occasionally white and often with a contrasting center.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sisyrinchium\\_bellum\\_flower\\_2002-10-10.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sisyrinchium_bellum_flower_2002-10-10.jpg)

**Form** – Upright, in clumps/clusters.

**Polination Source** – airborne.

**Additional Description** – Not a true grass although it appears and grows like a grass. There are many variants named which can make this genus confusing. There are up to 200 species. Some species are perennial plants, some annuals and some are rhizome. The South American species are not blue, despite the common name. The United States species are sometimes have a white flower while the California species has a yellow flower.

**Leaves/Petal** – Narrow leaves like grass, flowers are ½” – ¾” across with 6 points or petals and a yellow center.

**Maintenance** – remove spent blossoms.

**Propagation** – seed; self-sows, by rhizome division or by flower stems rooted.

**Legends & Folklore** – Native Americans and the Ohlone’s used the roots and leaves to cure indigestion and stomach pain.