

Siberian squill

Scilla siberica

Description

Introduced to the United States as an ornamental.

Habit

Grows up to 4 to 8 inches tall by 2 inches wide. It is a bulbous perennial, with 2 to 4 long slender leaves, bell-shaped, tubular or spreading. Appears in the early spring and is highly toxic.

Leaves

Basal and grass-like, 5 inches long and 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide, hairless.

Stems

Hairless, several. Stems become limp as seed pods mature.

Flowers

Single or in a raceme of 2 to 3 flowers at the top of a slender naked stem. 1 inch across when fully open, 6 blue petals with a darker blue stripe down the center, 6 white stamens with dark blue





tips, somewhat bell-shaped when closed. Other cultivars may have white, pink or blue-violet flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

After flowering, flower stems become limp as capsules (pods) mature. At maturity, capsules become purple and split open, releasing small, dark brown seeds.

Habitat

Native to southwestern Russia, the caucasus, and Turkey. Found in garden beds, woodland gardens, rock gardens, lawns.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetative by resprouts of broken roots.

Similar

Bluebell bellflower (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and Prairie blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Not susceptible to broadleaf herbicides. For small infestations it is suggested to try and dig out bulbs though "baby bulbs" may still be present in soil. Complete vegetation killing products such as glyphosate has been the best control method.

Credits

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