

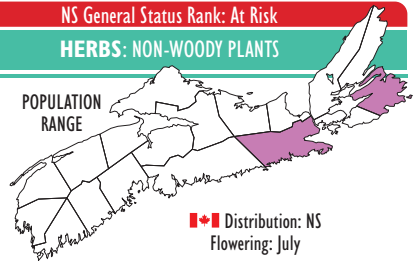
Slender Blue Flag

Iris prismatica

NS General Status Rank: At Risk

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION
RANGE



SIZE: 30-100 cm tall.

LEAVES: Long, narrow, straight, vertically oriented, 50-70 cm long, and 3-7 mm wide. Specialized leaves (spathes) are present just below the flowers, and are narrow, lance-shaped and 2-4 cm long.

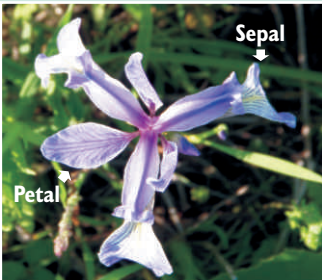
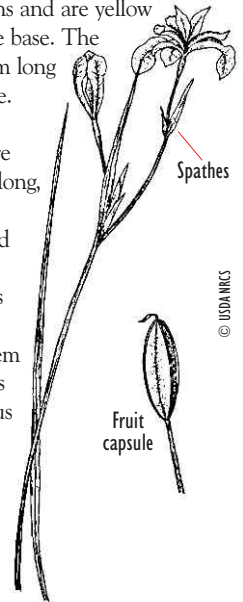
STEM: Slender and erect.

FLOWERS: One to three flowers, 5-8 cm long, at the top of a flower stalk (petiole). Each flower has 3 petals that are violet, lance-shaped, point upwards, and are 3-4 cm long (over half the length of the sepals). They are surrounded by 3 showy, petal-like sepals that curve back towards the stem and have purple veins and are yellow and white at the base. The sepals are 4-5 cm long and 1-2 cm wide.

FRUITS:

Capsules that are narrow, 3-5 cm long, and three-sided with well defined edges.

NOTES: Grows from a slender, underground stem (rhizome) that is slightly poisonous and could cause irritation if your skin comes into contact with it.



Flower



Long, narrow leaves at the base

Habitat:

Swamps near the coast and brackish wetlands.

Interesting point: European iris rhizomes, called orris root, produce a violet-scent and are used for perfumes, potpourri, soaps, wreaths and are also used in spirits for flavouring.

Similar species: Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*) has wider leaves (1.5 cm) and flat petals that are half the length of the sepals. Beach Blue Flag (*Iris setosa*) has flower petals that are tubular and one quarter the length of the sepals. Both of these species have fruit capsules with blunt edges.



Blue Flag



Beach Blue Flag