

BARTRAM'S IXIA

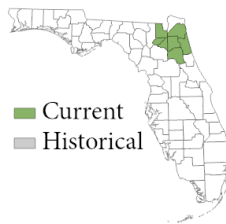
Calydorea caelestina (Bartram) Goldblatt & Henrich

Synonyms: *Ixia coelestina* W. Bartram;
Sphenostigma coelestinum (Bartr. ex Willd.)
R.C. Foster; *Salpingostylis coelestina* (Bartr. ex
Willd.) Small; *Calydorea coelestina* (Bartr.)
Goldblatt & Henrich

Family: Iridaceae (iris)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Bruce A. Sorrie

Field Description: Perennial herb with slender stem 20 - 40 cm tall. Basal leaves few, narrow, grass-like, shorter than the stem; stem leaves less than 9 cm long, scattered on the stem. Flowers 6.5 cm across, with 6 large, blue-violet petals appearing in early morning, fading by 10:00 a.m.; 3 stamens with conspicuous yellow, elongated anthers; style purple with 3 jagged, fan-shaped stigma lobes. Fruit a green capsule, 2 cm long.

Similar Species: Blue-eyed grasses (*Sisyrinchium*), also in the iris family, have small blue flowers that open throughout the day on branched stems.

Related Rare Species: Celestial lily (*Nemastylis floridana*), included in this guide, has similar blue flowers that bloom in the fall and only in the late afternoon.

Habitat: Wet to mesic grassy flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Spring; Flowers mid-April to mid-June. Nearly invisible at other times. Individuals flowers open only for one morning.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to NE FL.

Conservation Status: Although 60 or more populations have been reported since the early 1900s, most have not been seen recently. Only a few populations are known on conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Burn flatwoods every 2-3 years in growing season. Avoid clearcutting or mechanical site preparation in flatwoods.

References: Coile 2000, Goldblatt and Henrich 1991, Kral 1983, Small 1931a, Tanner and Miller 1995, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

