



Caption

Spiderwort

*Tradescantia ohiensis*

Spiderwort is a clump-forming plant that grows up to four feet tall. Blooming in early summer, the light violet to blue-violet flowers grow in small clusters at the top of the plant. Each flower is about 1" across, with 3 rounded petals, 6 bright yellow anthers, and fine spidery violet hairs near the base. The flowers open up during the morning and close by the afternoon in sunny weather, but remain open longer on cloudy days. Each flower opens up for only one day.

The most important pollinators of the flowers are long-tongued bees, especially bumblebees. Prairie herbivores eat the plant, including white-tailed Deer, cottontail rabbit, and box turtles. The leaves are non-toxic to these animals.

Resources

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=r820>

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/oh\\_spiderwortx.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/oh_spiderwortx.htm)

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=TROH](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=TROH)