

Sisyrinchium species

This species requires no pretreatment of seed other than soaking overnight in warm water.

SOW: At any time after the danger of frost has passed. Blue-Eyed Grass can be either direct sown to the position you wish your plants to grow or can be raised in seedling trays. Surface sow into any good quality potting mix if using seedling trays. Cover lightly, compact and water in well. Watering from below initially can be advantageous initially to avoid seed disturbance.

Place your seedling tray in a warm, shaded position and keep the growing medium lightly moist but not damp.

PLANTING OUT: Plant out in final position in full sun in medium fertile light soil at any time after the danger of frost has passed. Avoid over-watering in w\Winter

Sisyrinchium bellum, commonly known as Blue-Eyed Grass because of its long grass-like leaves and its tendency to grow in grassy meadows, is a green to glaucous tufted perennial growing from 30 to 45cm in height. The stems are flattish or somewhat winged and the flowers appear at the top.

Spring-flowering, the flowers are deep bluish purple to blue-violet, rarely white, and the tips of the perianth segments are truncate to notched with a small point. Quite profuse flowers are produced over several months. Although most of the leaves are basal, there are alternate cauline leaves as well which are shorter. The fruit is a dry dark or pale-brown capsule with 1-few seeds in a locule.

Blue-Eyed Grass is native to the west coast of the USA and is widely distributed throughout Oregon and California and is commonly found in many plant communities including chaparral and coastal sage scrub near the coast and inland to an elevation of about 1000m.

It performs well in dry areas and actually does better with only limited amounts of water. It is ideal for a rock garden, containers, borders or as a feature in a paddock or large grassy area. It will take a range of soils from sand to clay, tolerates seasonal flooding and can take high foot-traffic and still flourish.

Plant in poor to moderately fertile, well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil in full sun. Dislikes winter wet. To ensure continued flowering, lift and divide every year or so.