Native Plant of the Month

Blue-eyed-grass
Also called Satin-flower
Sisyrinchium douglasii

• In a slight breeze, the pink-purple flowers seem to have "eyes" that wink, and the petals have a satiny sheen, hence its common names.
• This species is named after early explorer and botanist David Douglas (1798-1834).
• More iris-like than grass-like, this plant is in the iris family.
• One of our first spring flowers, look for blooms as early as February.

Landscape Value

Blue-eyed-grass adds colorful interest to informal plantings where the ground is wet in spring and dry in summer. These plants do well in rock gardens, by a pond, along paths, and in pots. Blue-eyed-grass is easy to grow and available as rhizomes, seeds or plants through bulb suppliers and nurseries. Plant in drifts for best effect.

Each flower opens only for a day; but since there are several per stem, the blooming period may last for weeks. Plant with other native grasses and meadow wildflowers.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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