

blue-eyed Mary *Collinsia verna*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Scrophulariales

Family: Scrophulariaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Blue-eyed Mary is an annual plant. Its stems grow upright to about 12 inches tall. The simple leaves are arranged oppositely on the stem. The leaves on the lower stem are ovate with a short stalk and may or may not have teeth around the edges. The middle and upper leaves are narrower, have no stalk and are toothed around the edges. Flowers are produced in the axils of the upper leaves. Each five-petaled flower may be two-thirds inch long on a one-inch long stalk. There are three blue petals together on the lower side of the flower, and two white petals together on the upper side. The fruit is a spherical capsule that may grow to one-fourth inch in diameter.

BEHAVIORS

Blue-eyed Mary may be found statewide in Illinois, growing in low woods. Blue-eyed Mary flowers from late April to late May.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats

none

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