

Louisiana Iris

Iris spp.

The Iris Family (Iridaceae)

Basic Description: Wetland plant with bright green linear leaves forming a fan from base, an underground stem (rhizome). Large, colorful flowers bloom along stalk formed at growth tip of rhizome.

Interesting Facts: A unique group of native iris that interbreed only with each other, creating hybrids which occur naturally or man-made in many colors - blue, purple, red, yellow, pink, gold, brown, lavender and white. Louisiana State wildflower. Dormant in summer with growth cycle commencing in fall.

Flower: Arising from a stalk with several sheath leaves, the blooms consisting of six floral segments in two sets are on average 3-6" in size having 4 to 8 blooms per stalk which open at different times from February to May.

Fruit: 2-6" elongated, three chambered pod containing many corklike seeds.

Wildlife Value: Hummingbirds, butterflies and insects attracted to nectar-rich flowers.

Habitat: Swampy, boggy areas.

LEAF TYPE POLLINATOR WILDLIFE VALUE

N/A INSECTS & BIRDS LOW