



smooth spiderwort

Tradescantia virginiana

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The smooth spiderwort is a perennial plant that grows from roots. Its upright stems may be two and one-half feet tall. Each slender leaf may be 12 inches long and one inch wide. Flowers develop in clusters or singly at the tip of the stem. Each flower may be two inches wide. The three petals per flower are blue, purple, rose or white and do not last long. The fruit is a capsule, about one-half inch long. When mature, it splits open into three segments with not more than 12 seeds.

BEHAVIORS

The smooth spiderwort may be found in the southern two-thirds of Illinois. This plant grows in woods and prairies. The smooth spiderwort flowers from late April through early June.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 2/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.