

WESTERN BLUE FLAG IRIS

IRIS MISSOURIENSIS



FOUND IN MOIST PLACES THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN U. S. AND CANADA, BLUE FLAG IS A 1-2' HIGH WINTER DECIDUOUS IRIS THAT SPREADS VIA RHIZOMES, OFTEN FORMING LARGE, DEER RESISTANT PATCHES IN MEADOWS AND ALONG STREAM BANKS. THIS VARIABLE AND ADAPTABLE CALIFORNIA NATIVE SPECIES IS FOUND AT MID TO HIGH ELEVATIONS, AND IN PLACES, EXTENDS ITS RANGE ALL THE WAY TO SEA LEVEL. THE BLOSSOMS, WHICH APPEAR SPRING TO SUMMER, ARE SOMEWHAT VARIABLE AS WELL, AND CAN BE A DEEP TO PALE BLUE, BUT ARE ALWAYS GRACEFUL. THE QUICKLY SPREADING RHIZOMES CONTRIBUTE TO EROSION CONTROL IN MOIST TO WET AREAS, AND CAN BE DIVIDED EVERY FEW YEARS TO INCREASE PLANTINGS. DESPITE ITS CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR MOIST SOIL, WESTERN BLUE FLAG CAN TOLERATE SEASONAL DRYNESS, AND WILL GO DORMANT TO COPE WITH DRY CONDITIONS. CUT BACK SPENT FOLIAGE YEARLY TO KEEP TIDY.

SUN TO LIGHT SHADE

ZONES 3-11

