

Tradescantia ohiensis - Ohio Spiderwort



Native to roadsides, open fields, woodland edges and prairies of eastern and central North America, Ohio spiderwort is the most common and widely distributed species of *Tradescantia* in the United States. The Cherokee tribe used this spiderwort as a medicinal in tea and poultice preparations. A clump-forming perennial, Ohio spiderwort grows 24-30 inches tall and 30 inches wide.

Small clusters of 3-petaled, one-inch, light blue (less frequently deep blue or rose blue) flowers bloom in May and June. Each flower opens only for one day.

Hardy to USDA zone 4 (-30 degrees F), Ohio spiderwort grows best in moist to dry, acidic, well-drained soil in sun to part shade. Plants are tolerant of drought. Deadhead spent flowering stems to new lateral flower stems to prolong bloom. Foliage may brown after initial bloom and the plant disease rust often appears by midsummer. Cut declining foliage back to 8 inches. New foliage will appear within 3 weeks, and plants may re-bloom. Ohio spiderwort may self-seed and become aggressive in ideal growing conditions. Divide plants in either spring or autumn to rejuvenate. Foliage tends to sprawl by midsummer or go dormant, so plant spiderwort among later-blooming meadow plants.

Bumblebees are the main pollinator of Ohio spiderwort flowers. Deer and rabbits will browse plant foliage.