



# Spiderwort

*Tradescantia occidentalis*

**Plant Description** – Non-native, herb/wildflower, deciduous, perennial

**Height:** 1 – 2 ft **Width/Spread:** 1 – 3 ft



## Leaves

**Shape:** Linear

**Arrangement:** Alternate

**Margin:** Entire/Smooth

**Form:** Simple

**Leaf Description:** Long and narrow; up to 15 inches long and 1 inch wide; stiff with parallel veins; grow in an upward direction

## Flower/Bloom

**Flower Color:** Blue/Violet

**Flower Shape:** Stellate (star-shaped)

**In Bloom:** Jun-July

**Flower Description:** Appear in racemes (clusters) of up to 10 flowers at the ends of the branches; each flower has 3 round or oval shaped petals; 6 stamens with yellow tips in the middle; flowers last less than a day after opening lobes than the top lip; flowers on un-branched leafy stalks



## Fruits & Seeds

**Spreads via:** Seeds

**Seed Type:** Fruit – Capsule

**Months in Seed:** Late Summer

**Fruit and Seed Description:** Rounded capsule contains 6 dark gray seeds; seeds are oval with a groove on one side and a hole on the other

## Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; To promote a second bloom, cut back after first bloom; Cut back 8-12 inches from the ground to prevent re-seeding; Can become an aggressive grower; to avoid this, divide every three years; Can be propagated by seeds, division of the roots, or stem cuttings. Prefers average watering (*water two times per week during the summer and once per week during the rest of the year*)

## Ecological Benefits

Food source for native bees