

Commelina erecta- New Crop Summary & Recommendations

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Series: New Floricultural Crops: Formulation of Production Schedules for Wild, Non-domesticated Species

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Horticultural Science 5051: Plant Production II
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COMMELINA ERECTA

*DAYFLOWER, SLENDER DAYFLOWER, WHITEMOUTH DAYFLOWER, WIDOWS TEARS, NARROW LEAF DAYFLOWER, HIERBA DEL POLLO

*Characteristics

- Family: Commelinaceae
- Stems: There are many stems emerging from the base. Each stem is very erect, hence it's name.
- The stems and leaves are finely pubescent with often reddish purple shades towards the nodes.
- Leaves: Alternate, lanceolate to oblong, entire, glabrous
- Inflorescence: Terminal cymes of about 3 flowers that are surrounded by a folded spathe which join into a basal.
- Flower: 3 petals that are blue and 1 whitish/clear petal beneath. 4 lobed, yellow anthers, the filaments are glabrous and pale yellow. There are 3 unequal stamen and 2 typical stamen that are at the base of the bottom petal. There are 2 or 3 filaments that are a lavender color that curl inward at the apex.
- *Herbaceous perennial that can get up to 18 inches.
- Commelina erecta flowers from May to October in Minnesota and from March until December in Texas.
- It is native to the United States.
- Habit: It likes ditches, roadsides, sandy or gravelly areas, wooded slopes and other glades, any dry open areas.
- Commelina erecta is called the Dayflower because the flowers wither a day after they open during midday.

*Classification:

Commelina erecta

Kingdom Plantae –

Subkingdom Tracheobionta –

Superdivision Spermatophyta –

Division Magnoliophyta –

Class Liliopsida –

Subclass Commelinide –

Order Commelinales –

Family Commelinaceae - Spiderwort fam.

Genus Commelina L. Dayflower

Species Commelina erecta L. – whitemouth dayflower

*Marketing Nitch

- The dayflower is the perfect plant to sell in a greenhouse. It has amazing true blue color and a very unique looking petal arrangement.
- It flowers all the way into October and is hardy to zone 4.
- This flower can be used for all kinds of holidays such as Mothers day, the 4th of July, Memorial day, Easter, etc...

- The dayflower is also said to be a preferred food source for deer, so it is very good if you are establishing deer feeding plots.
- The Erect Dayflower is also a wonderful plant for native area restoration

*Production Schedule

- Growing the seeds is fairly easy except for the fact that the seeds are hard to harvest. Each plant only produces a few seeds and they are hard to get at.
- Transplant cuttings and seedlings 6-8 weeks after germination. Make sure the seedling are at least 6 inches in height before transplanting.
- Germination may take up to 4 weeks.
- Flowering will occur sporadically after transplanting.

*ESTABLISHMENT

- Erect Dayflowers can be grown from seeds and cuttings.
- It's germination is 87% when it can receive 12 hours of sunlight at 75 degrees F, and 12 hours of dark at about 50 degrees F.
- The cuttings have about an 80% survival rate with between 1 to 3 node stem cuttings.

MANAGEMENT

- Weed control can be a problem with the Dayflower because it tends to be a long leggy plant that likes to utilize it's surrounding plants as support systems, then when you go to weed the area you have to dig through them. However, with the beautiful flowers it is worth your time!

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- (Dayflower) *Commelina Erecta*
http://www.missouriplants.com/Bluealt/Commelina_erecta_page.html
- *Commelina erecta* archives <http://2bnthewild.com/plants/H65.htm>
- Plant Profile for *Commelina erecta*
- <http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/erectdayflower.html>