

Noxious?

Use these characteristics to distinguish between native and exotic invasive *Commelina* spp.

Spreading dayflower *Commelina diffusa* Burman f.



Spreading habit with few erect stems



No red hairs on sheath. Back of spathe is **open** (*C. benghalensis* is sealed).



Leaves are more narrow (2-5 times longer than wide). Flowers have 3 blue petals. No subterranean flowers. Although *C. diffusa* is native, it is often considered a troublesome weed.

Benghal dayflower *Commelina benghalensis* L.

Noxious



Erect to sprawling growth habit



Egg-shaped leaves (<2 times longer than wide) Red hairs on leaf sheath



Above-ground flowers have 3 petals: 2 blueish purple (5 mm diameter) and 1 smaller white. Rhizomes bear closed white spathes containing the subterranean flowers.