Noxious?

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

Spreading dayflower
Commelina diffusa Burman f.

Erect to sprawling growth habit

Benghal dayflower
Commelina benghalensis L.

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.

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.