

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

[Blue Flag Iris](#) (*Iris virginica*)



Blue Flag Iris is stunning. It has variegated pedals with a touch of yellow at the “heart” of the pedal. It looks like two flowers in one: the sepals or “falls” and the upright pedals. The color ranges from deep blue to dark purple with a yellow heart and maybe some white. Blue Flag Iris attracts larger bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths and beetles.

Fun fact: Native Americans used the leaves to spin strong, fine twine.

Sun: full sun, part shade/savanna

Soil: mesic, wet-mesic, wet

The plant grows in clumps up to 2 to 3 feet tall.

Why plant MI native plants? Native plants bring diversity to your yard, increase the diversity of insects, and therefore create a more diverse food chain. They help create a full “circle of life” for insects and hence birds and other animals in the food chain. Native plants use a minimal amount of water, require minimal maintenance, require no chemicals, provide beautiful landscapes, and build a natural wildlife habitat.