



# Blue Flag Iris, *Iris versicolor* L.



**Flowering Period:** May-August

**Height:** 12-18"

**Plant Habit:** violet to dark blue showy blossoms, spreads through self seeding and rhizomes, sturdy stalk, dense herbaceous foliage, not aggressive grower but will form clumps

**Growth preference:** moist, rich soils, tolerant of submergence, meadows, stream banks, marshland, neutral to acidic soils, full sun to partial shade

\*rhizomes are poisonous to livestock

## **Use in Rain Gardens:**

Blue Flag Iris is commonly found along the edges of wetlands and moist areas. In the nursery garden we planted the iris within the center lowest point of the basin, Zone 1. A large section of iris was planted by the swale entrance to the garden where water may be flowing during storm events. Blue flag iris do well in full sun to partial shade and will fill in the area around the planted shrubs.

## **Other Uses:**

Blue flag iris is a great plant to add when naturalizing ponds or shorelands. The thick basal leaves provide texture and additional layers within the buffer, which aids in the filtration of any runoff entering the waterbody. Blue flag iris also provides habitat for waterfowl and aquatic amphibians and reptiles.

