

Blue-eyed Grass

keep your eyes peeled for this sun-loving wildflower



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stamp
here

Centre for Environmental Data and Recording
National Museums Northern Ireland
153 Bangor Road
Cultra, Holywood
BT18 0EU

Blue-eyed grass Recording Card

A Fermanagh speciality, the blue-eyed grass is a unique wildflower that reminds us of the links between history, culture and wildlife in the rich Fermanagh landscape. Not a grass at all, the plant is actually a type of iris. Help us to conserve it by sending in your records, and who knows what other plants you will discover!

- Colour:** Pale to bright blue flowers, with contrasting yellow centre. Leaves green and grass-like. After flowering, seeds ripen in a tiny sphere which changes colour from green to black.
- Size:** Flowering stem 20-50 cm high; flowers measuring about 1cm across; leaves 0.3-0.5 cm wide.
- Habitat:** Damp, flowery meadows and lakeshores, roadside verges and old quarries.
- Flowering:** June to August. Flowers tend to open only in periods of bright sunlight, so when weather conditions are poor the plant may be mistaken for a grass.
- Occurrence:** The plant is an American element of Irish flora, being common in the prairie grasslands of North America. In the UK, it is only found in Co. Fermanagh, where it grows near Lough Melvin and in and around Lough Erne (Upper and Lower lakes).
- Status:** It is a Northern Ireland Priority Species and receives special protection under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, which means it cannot be picked or uprooted.
- Threats:** The main threats to blue-eyed grass and its associated habitats include: land drainage, nutrient enrichment of soils, undergrazing/ land abandonment, and loss of land to development.

For further information on blue-eyed grass please visit www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org or www.ehsni.gov.uk/biodiversity



Fermanagh District Council

Blue-eyed Grass Recording Card

Name:

Address:

..... Telephone number:

E-mail:

Number of Flowering Plants Seen (eg. 5, 50+)	Date (e.g. 17/7/08)	Location (Grid Reference / townland / postcode / site) (eg. H 339 251, Reilly Wood, Crom Estate)	Comments

Enjoy recording whilst taking care to avoid disturbance to wildlife.

Relevant access permission should always be sought prior to visiting any sites.

Under the Data Protection Act, CEDaR has a legal duty to protect any information we collect about you. The information which you give us will be used to direct conservation action for blue-eyed grass as part of the Fermanagh Local Biodiversity Action Plan process. Personal details will not be disclosed to any 3rd party without prior consent.