

Western Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*)

Order: Asparagales

Family: Iridaceae (Iris Family)

Flowers: March - May

Sisyrinchium bellum is a perennial (from compact rhizome) herbaceous plant. It is found in one spot on the peninsula. This plant is tufted with multiple stems arising from the base. Stems are flattened and have distinct nodes (often with a purple stripe). The leaves are long, thin, and glabrous with the bases sheathing the stems. The flowers are clustered together in a umbel-like cyme at the tips of the flowering branches. The inflorescence is subtended by 2 leaf-like bracts that are somewhat equal in length and have translucent margins. The inner bracts translucent margin is wider just below the tip and does not go beyond the tip. The perianth (tepals) are usually purple to rarely white in color with a yellow color at the base. The perianth has dark stripes (veins) throughout and the tips are usually notched. The stamen filaments are fused to form a tube and along with the anthers, enclose the style. The fruit is a capsule with somewhat circular seeds that can be smooth or with pits.

