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Asiatic (common) dayflower

Commelina communis L.

Life cycle

Erect to spreading summer annual.

Leaves

Leaves are alternate, oblong to lance-shaped, 2 to 4 inches long, gradually tapering to a point with parallel veins and smooth leaf margins. Leaves clasp the stem, forming conspicuous basal sheaths.

Stems

Erect to prostrate, spreading stems are numerous branched and root at the nodes. Stems are thick, fleshy and swollen at the nodes.

Flowers and fruit

Unique and attractive flowers, consisting of two large, bright blue petals at the top and a single small, white petal below, are enclosed in a green, leaflike bract. Flowers occur at the ends of long



Asiatic dayflower plant.

Commelinaceae (Spiderwort family)

Asiatic (common) dayflower *continued*

flower stalks. Each flower is open for one day only. Fruit are two-celled capsules that yield brown to reddish, wrinkled seeds.

Reproduction

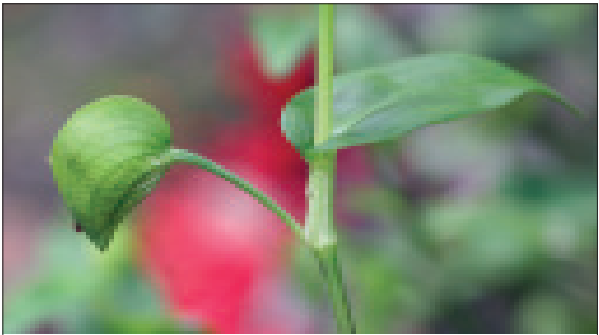
Primarily by seeds, although vegetative reproduction occurs during the summer.



Asiatic dayflower flower.



Asiatic dayflower leaves.



Conspicuous basal sheath of Asiatic dayflower.

Commelinaceae (Spiderwort family)