

XYRIS DIFFORMIS Chap.
Variable Yellow-eyed-grass

FAMILY: Xyridaceae.

SYNONYM: *Xyris caroliniana* Walter, misapplied (see Comments).

HABIT: Rosette-forming, herbaceous perennial, flowering scape 15-70 cm.; flowering July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to *Xyris torta*. *X. difformis* has a rosette with a soft base, while *X. torta* has a hard, bulbous base. Non-flowering rosettes are not identifiable with any certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains and adjacent Piedmont from ME to FL and e. TX, scattered n. and e. to OK and TN; disjunct in the Great Lakes region in s. Ont., OH, IN, and MI.

STATE RANGE: There are two post-1990 collections from Portage County and a 1962 record from Summit County. There are pre-1930 specimens from Geauga and Lake counties.

HABITAT: Moist, peaty or sandy soils; pond margins, ditches, sphagnum mats; more tolerant of shade than *X. torta*.

HAZARDS: Changes in water level; overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering material; note the soft base of the rosette.

COMMENTS: Even when in flower, it is easy to overlook this species. Non-flowering individuals are virtually impossible to locate. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout northern Ohio.

Kral (1966) discusses the misapplication of the name *X. caroliniana* to this species. Older herbarium and printed reports of *X. caroliniana* in Ohio should be referred to *X. difformis*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Argus, G.W. and D.J. White. 1983. Atlas of the rare vascular plants of Ontario: Part 2. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Canada. n.p.

Hellquist, C.B. and G.E. Crow. 1982. Aquatic vascular plants of New England: Part 5. Araceae, Lemnaceae, Xyridaceae, Eriocaulaceae, and Pontederiaceae. New Hampshire Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull. 523. 46 p.

Kral, R. 1966. *Xyris* (Xyridaceae) of the continental United States and Canada. Sida 2: 177-260.



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