

XYRIS TORTA Sm.  
Twisted Yellow-eyed-grass

FAMILY: Xyridaceae.

HABIT: Rosette-forming, herbaceous perennial from a bulbous base, flowering scape 15-100 cm.; flowering July, August.

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

TOTAL RANGE: Cent. NH and MA, w. through Great Lakes region of Ont., NY, OH, MI, IN, WI, and MN, s. to GA and TX.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from Erie, Lucas and Scioto counties. There are pre-1980 records from Cuyahoga, Henry and Wood counties. Also listed from Gallia and Jackson counties by Braun (1967).

HABITAT: Dry to moist openings on sandy or clayey substrates; fields, ditches, seepage banks, pond margins; often on freshly exposed soil.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; compaction of loose soil.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good; it is known to thrive in recently disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering material; note the bulbous base.

COMMENTS: Even when in flower, it is easy to overlook this species, particularly when it is overtopped by grasses in moist fields. Non-flowering individuals are virtually impossible to locate. Intensive searching should locate additional populations of this species in Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae of Ohio : Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 464 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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