

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems (var. *caerulea*). Photographer Don Wood, Bomaderry Creek Regional Reserve near Nowra



Fruiting stem (var. *caerulea*). Photographer Don Wood, Princes Highway north of Bodalla



Plant (var. *caerulea*). Australian Plant Image Index, Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants key, unknown photographer



Flowers (var. *producta*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Flowering stem and leaf (var. *vannata*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Flowering plant (var. *vannata*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Plant (var. *assera*). Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT

## Common name

Blue Flax-lily. Paroo Lily (var. *caerulea*)

## Family

Hemerocallidaceae

## Where found

Forest, woodland, heath, shrubland, and rocky areas.

var. *assera*: Coast and ranges north from the Nowra district.

var. *caerulea*: Coast, ranges, and the tablelands.

var. *cinerascens*: Sydney area, Blue Mountains. Tablelands adjacent to the Blue Mountains

var. *producta*: Coast and ranges north from Bermagui.

var. *protensa*: Coast and ranges north from Jervis Bay.

var. *vannata*: Blue Mountains. Most records north from Byron Bay.

## Notes

**Perennial** herb to 1.8 m high, tufted and single, or mat-forming, sometimes **rhizomatous**. Fruit fleshy, blue. Stems hairless or scaly. Leaves arranged in two rows on opposite sides of the stem, 10–75 cm long; 3–25 mm wide, flat or the margins somewhat curved down, upper surface the same colour as lower surface or the lower surface slightly paler, upper surface usually glossy, margins and **midrib** on the lower surface irregularly toothed and rough, the sheaths at the base **keeled**, and folded together lengthwise, a third to almost completely closed at the top. Flowers whitish, greenish white or creamy green, or pale to dark blue, with 6 '**petals**'. Outer '**petals**' 7–11.5 mm long, inner '**petals**' 6.3–10.5 mm long. **Anthers** yellow-brown. **Inflorescence** longer than the leaves, the sub-clusters expanded to contracted, 3–25-flowered. Flowering: mostly spring–summer. Fruit purple, 7–12 mm long.

Family Phormiaceae in PlantNET. Family Asphodelaceae in VICFLORA.

**var. *assera***: Plant tufted, single, to 1.8 m high. Stems with **scales** for most of their length, elongating. Extra shoots produced from near the tops of the leaf sheaths. Leaves not **glaucous**. Leaf sheaths more than two-thirds closed at the top, more or less biconvex in cross section in that region. Flowers pale to mid-blue, often with green streaks externally. Flower clusters expanded or contracted, few-flowered.

**var. *caerulea***: Plant tufted, single, to 0.5 m high. Stems short, leafy, scales few near the base. Stems touching or up to 60 cm apart. No extra shoots produced from near the tops of the leaf sheaths. Leaves not glaucous. Leaf **sheath** one- to two-thirds closed at the top, Y-shaped in cross section in that region. Flowers mid- to dark blue. Flower clusters more or less expanded, fewer than 10-flowered.

**var. *cinerascens***: Plant tufted, single to gregarious, to 0.8 m high, rhizomatous. True stems less than 0.1 m long, touching or up to 30 cm apart. Leaves strongly glaucous. Leaf sheaths more than two-thirds closed at the top, more or less biconvex in cross section in that region. Flowers creamy-green to pale blue. Flower clusters contracted, few-flowered.

**var. *producta***: Plant tufted, single, to 1.3 m high. Stems elongating, with scales for most of their length, scales touching or up to 10 cm apart. Extra shoots produced from near the tops of the leaf sheaths in older plants. Leaf sheath one- to two-thirds closed at the top, Y-shaped in cross section in that region. Flowers greenish white to bright blue. Flower clusters more or less expanded.

**var. *protensa***: Plant tufted, single, to 0.5 m high. Stems adjacent, or to 30 cm apart. Stems leafy for most of their length, elongating somewhat, with scales and then leaves increasing in size upwards. No extra shoots produced from near the tops of the **sheaths**. Leaves not glaucous. Leaf sheaths more than two-thirds closed at the top, more or less biconvex in cross section in that region. Flowers pale blue. Flower clusters more or less expanded, 3–5-flowered.

**var. *vannata***: Plant tufted, single, to 1.3 m high. Stems more or less adjacent. Stems leafy for most of their length, elongating, with scales and then leaves increasing in size upwards. No extra shoots produced from near the tops of the sheaths. Leaves not glaucous. Leaf sheaths more than two-thirds closed at the top, more or less biconvex in cross section in that region. Flowers white to mid-blue. Flower clusters expanded to contracted, many-flowered.

PlantNET description of species and key to varieties: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Dianella-caerulea> (accessed 26 April 2021)

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*This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:*



*Android edition*



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