

Dianella caerulea

(Liliaceae)

- Common name:** Blue flax lily.
- Localities:** Brisbane River Bank, Grandview Rd, Kholo Creek, Moggill State Forest, Upper Brookfield.
- Growth form:** A tufted or mat-forming, herbaceous plant with stems to 1.8 m, from an underground rhizome.
- Foliage:** Leaves are narrow and up to 75 cm long; they are arranged in a fan from the base.
- Flowers and fruit:** The inflorescence is long, with up to 25 attractive, small, blue, 6-petalled flowers, with yellow anthers. These are followed by small, cobalt-blue fruit.
- Habitat:** Occurs along margins of dry rain forest and in open eucalypt forest.
- Propagation and Management:** This species is hardy and easy to grow. It propagates readily from seed or by division or from aerial growths, and will spread naturally from seed in the garden. Blue flax lily is tolerant of sun and shade.
- General:** A source of food for fruit-eating birds, including fig birds. Blue flax lily is a useful ground cover species. Aborigines ate the berries raw and the roots, roasted; they also used the leaf fibres for making nets and baskets. The related *D. congesta* (flax lily), with much shorter inflorescences, also occurs in the district.

