

# Viola cucullata



## marsh blue violet

Family	Violaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	FACW	CoC	5

### DESCRIPTION

This small colony-forming perennial lacks stems, having leaf stalks sprouting from branching rhizomes (underground stems).

Leaves (4 to 12 cm long) are heart-shaped, basal and smooth with small rounded teeth on the margins.

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April through June. Single flowers (1.5 to 4.5 cm) at the end of long smooth stalks extend above the leaves. Flowers have green sepals with pointed tips behind the five light blue to violet petals (rarely white). Petals are white at the base with darker purple veins and short club-shaped hairs (beard) with a swollen tip. The fruit is an olive green capsule (to 1.5 cm) with smooth brown to black seeds.

### HABITAT

Marshes, bogs, fens, seepage swamps, and stream banks.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Viola sororia*, common blue violet, found in many habitats from wetlands to mesic uplands, is also stemless but often has hairy leaves, round-tipped sepals and long thread-like petal beard hairs. In comparison, *V. cucullata* has smooth leaves, pointed-tip sepals and club-shaped beard hairs.



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*V. cucullata*, flower and sepals



*V. cucullata*, flower hairs



*V. sororia*, flower and sepals



*V. sororia*, flower hairs