



*Southern Blue Flag (Swamp Iris) in a wet area at the Hematite Lake spillway, Trigg County, Kentucky (LBL).*

## **SOUTHERN BLUE FLAG**

*Iris virginica* L.

This colonial, tall (often two feet or more) Iris is a common species of swamps and reservoir shorelines and thus is sometimes called Swamp Iris. A large colony may be found just below the spillway of Hematite Lake, where these pictures were taken. The colorful flowers are indicative of the genus and common name (*Iris* = rainbow). Also, numerous color forms of the tall bearded irises of horticulture still persist and slowly spread around old home-sites and in many of the cemeteries. Like *Narcissus*, the Daffodil, clones were easy to propagate and these two genera were grown by most former residents. The genus (and common name) *Crocus* is another commonly seen member of the Iris Family (**Iridaceae**, the Iris Family).

*Colorful flower of the Southern Blue Flag (Swamp Iris).*

