

## LINACEAE – FLAX FAMILY

**Plant:** mostly herbs, a few shrubs and trees

**Stem:**

**Root:**

**Leaves:** mostly simple, alternate or opposite, usually spiraled, sessile; stipules present, usually small

**Flowers:** perfect; usually in cymes, 5 sepals, 5 petals, cyclic, petals often clawed; 5-10-15 stamens; ovary superior

**Fruit:** a schizocarp, drupe, nut, or capsule, may be fleshy or not

**Other:** ; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 8+ genera; locally *Linum*

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Lewis [Western Blue] Flax; *Linum lewisii* Pursh

Grooved Flax; *Linum sulcatum* Riddell

Common [Blue-Flowered] Flax [Linseed]; *Linum usitatissimum* L. (Introduced)

# Lewis [Western Blue] Flax



*Linum lewisii* Pursh

Linaceae (Flax Family)

Near Fraser, Grand County, Colorado

Notes: 5-petaled flower, blue, sepals pointed; leaves alternate, linear, usually many stems together; dry plains to montane conditions; late spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2012]





# Grooved Flax

*Linum sulcatum* Riddell

Linaceae (Flax Family)

Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area,

Christian County, Missouri

Notes: 5-petaled flower, yellow (usually less than 1 cm),  
sepals pointed, fruiting stalks up to 1 cm; leaves  
alternate, narrowly lanceolate to linear, with 2 small black  
glands at base of leaf; late spring to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2010]





# Common [Blue-Flowered] Flax [Linseed]



*Linum usitatissimum* L. (Introduced)

Linaceae (Flax Family)

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield,  
Greene County, Missouri

Notes: 5-petaled flower, blue, sepals pointed and  
without glands; leaves alternate, linear, usually  
many stems together; spring to summer to early  
fall

[V Max Brown, 2010]

