

MARANTACEAE – ARROWSROOT FAMILY

Plant: Herbs; lowland plants, often aquatic and wetlands plants

Stem: branched or not; large rhizomes present

Root:

Leaves: alternate, 2 rows with sheathing bases, parallel veins

Flowers: perfect; paired 3 parted flower (sepals and petals) with 3 to 4 staminoides (petal-like); 5 fertile stamen; ovary inferior, 3 carpellate

Fruit: capsule

Other:

Genera: 31+ genera, 530 + species worldwide

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Powdery Alligator-Flag [Thalia]; *Thalia dealbata* Fraser ex Roscoe

Powdery Alligator-Flag [Thalia]

Thalia dealbata Fraser ex Roscoe

Amarantaceae (Arrowroot Family)

Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard County,
Missouri

Notes: A complex paired purple flower enclosed by 2 papery bracts, flower with 3 small sepals, 3 petals and 3 staminodes (both purple to bluish), outermost staminode forming a large lip, flowers perfect, inflorescence a large arching panicle, covered usually with white powder; leaves large (up to 40+ cm long), petiole and leaf may reach 3 m; stem glaucous; fruit a utricle, emergent aquatic, summer

[V Max Brown, 2016]

