



Life



Drylands

Restoration of dry-acidic Continental grasslands and heathlands in Natura2000 sites in Piemonte and Lombardia.

Limniris sibirica L.

Habitat 4030

THE BLUE PRINCE OF THE PIEDMONTESE BARAGGE

NAME: *Limniris sibirica* (L.) Fuss.

Common name: Siberian Iris, Siberian Flag

Habitat: H4030 - European drylands.

Distribution

In Northern Italy (Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Trentino Alto-Adige, Friuli Venezia-Giulia), in damp meadows, forest edges, and in the Piedmontese Baragge (poorly fertile soils that stretch from the foothills to the floor of the Po plain), where clay substrates retain water, creating locally damp conditions favourable to the growth of the species.

Come riconoscerla

The violet-blue colour distinguishes it from the more common *Limniris pseudacorus*, which is yellow in colour and is most often found close to ditches and damp river banks.

Facts

> The species is protected in the regions included in the Life Drylands project. In Piedmont, a small population persists in the Baragge nature reserve.

> *Limniris sibirica* enriches the biodiversity of the environments it grows in, and supports pollinating insects.

Uses

> It is a medicinal species. Iris rhizomes are dried and from them a substance is extracted which has expectorant, diuretic, soothing, vermifuge, and hepatobiliary properties. Iris essence is also used in perfumery.

> *Limniris sibirica* is an ornamental species. Although cultivated irises are more often seen in gardens, *L. sibirica* can also be used to decorate urban greenery in regions where it grows spontaneously: it can be bought in nurseries specialising in native species, a way of contributing to the *ex-situ* conservation of biodiversity.

Mutual species

Bumblebees enable pollination and reproduction.

Did you know?

> In 1967, a stamp depicting the species was issued in Poland.

Intervention sites: Brughiera del Vigano (Varese); Baraggia di Rovasenda (Vercelli).

> The Life Drylands project foresees an intervention to improve the floristic composition of the existing habitats. Fifty specimens will be planted in the Vigano heath, while 200 specimens will be planted in the Baraggia di Rovasenda.

>>> LIFE DRYLANDS: IT'S TIME FOR DRY HABITATS!

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