

Flowers of "The Walking Iris", *Neomarica gracilis*

Volume 2 of Series:
**Flowers of the
FLAAR Ethnobotanical Research Garden**

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FLAAR Reports

FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)

October 2025





I am estimating that these flowers are *Neomarica gracilis*. This iris plant is native to Guatemala and adjacent countries. Portal de Biodiversidad de Guatemala lists them as native to Alta Verapaz and Izabal.

In the FLAAR Ethnobotanical Research Garden they grow along the edge of the driveway leading downhill to the garage.

The large leaves at the upper right are used to wrap tamales across Mesoamerica.

The long leaves to the right-of-center are a young *Theobroma cacao* tree. It has so much shade that it has been growing very slowly, so we removed some of the vines covering the tree canopy and now the leaves of the cacao tree are very happy and pointing diagonally upwards towards the sun.

Iphone 15 ProMax, Oct. 18, 2025.



