



Blue False Indigo

Baptisia australis

Plant Description – native, herb/wildflower, deciduous, perennial

Height: 3 – 4 ft **Width/Spread:** 3 - 4 ft



Leaves

Shape: subulate

Arrangement: alternate

Margin: entire

Form: compound

Leaf Description: up to 2-inch leaves are divided into three leaflets (trifoliate); bluish-green color; silvery-gray in Fall

Flower/Bloom

Flower Color: blue/ purple

In Bloom: Apr - Jul

Flower Shape: Papilionaceous (pea-shaped)

Flower(s) Description: congested in dense, erect, racemes (compact cluster of small flowers attached by short equal stalks at equal distances along a central stem) on stem 4-16 inches long; flower is 1 inch long



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Seeds & Rhizomes

Seed Type: Dry seed pod

Seed Season: Winter

Fruit and Seed Description: dark brown-blackish (when mature), 1-3-inch long, inflated, oblong, hardened pod containing loose seeds that rattle in the wind

Ecological Benefits

Food source for Butterflies, Caterpillars (Wild Indigo Duskywing, Orange Sulphur, Clouded Sulphur, Frosted Elfin, Eastern Tailed-blue, Hoary Edge), Native Bees, Other Pollinators, and Hummingbirds

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; In late fall and into winter the leaves turn silver-gray and the seed pods turn black; prefers average watering (*water two times per week during the summer and once per week during the rest of the year*)