




Baptisia australis

Blue Wild Indigo

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

This prized garden plant with attractive gray-green foliage produces beautiful racemes of showy, pea-like, indigo flowers followed by blue-black seed pods (legumes). Although Blue Wild Indigo is native to NoVA (except for Prince William County), it is rare in the Mid-Atlantic Region.*



Perennial	Flowers En Masse and Close-up, Fruit	
Height: 3–5 feet		
Spread: 3–4 feet		
Bloom Color: Blue		
Characteristics		
Upright, bushy, clumping, rhizomatous perennial		
Alternate , trifoliate , gray-green leaves with persistent stipules on branched, glabrous , glaucous stems		
Showy, pedicellate flowers with winged & keeled corollas on erect, terminal racemes May–June		
Beaked legumes mature to yellow to blue-black		
Attributes		
Tolerates clay soil, dry soil, shallow-rocky soil, erosion, drought, and rabbits; intolerant of soggy winter soil; no serious pests or diseases; deer rarely severely damage		
Seed pods used in dried floral arrangements		
Attracts bumble bees, butterflies; larval host for ~20 lepidopterans , including Io moth & Clouded Sulfur		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements : Average, well-drained	<i>Coronilla varia</i> - Crown Vetch	
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i> - Tall Larkspur	
Water Requirements : Dry, Moist	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> - Foxglove	
Deep root system does not transplant easily	<i>Lupinus</i> spp. - Lupine	
Space young plants about 3 feet apart	Lythrum salicaria - Purple Loosestrife	
Trim after bloom to avert need to stake (this also will prevent formation of attractive seed pods)		
Use as specimen or in small groups in back of border, meadow garden or native plant garden	<p>*It is native to DC and absent in DE. It is found in Montgomery, Prince Georges, and Washington counties in MD, and mostly in the western part of PA. In VA, it is rare in the Piedmont and mountains.</p>	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3a–9b		
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria		

Images by Mary Free (top, bottom), Sunny Garden and Elaine Mills (middle), Pollinator Garden (near Gulf Branch Nature Center)



Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

