

Baptisia australis



Plant of Merit

Species Native to Missouri

Common Name: BLUE FALSE INDIGO

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Fabaceae

Native Range: Eastern United States

Zone: 3 to 9

Height: 3.00 to 4.00 feet

Spread: 3.00 to 4.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: Indigo blue

Sun: FULL SUN TO PART SHADE

Water: Dry to medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Naturalize

Flower: Showy

Attracts: Butterflies

Fruit: Showy

Tolerate: Rabbit, DEER, Drought, Erosion, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

Culture Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun. Tolerates drought and poor soils. Over time, plants develop slowly expanding clumps with deep and extensive root systems, and should not be disturbed once established. Plants take on more of a shrubby appearance and tend to open up after bloom. Trimming or shearing foliage after bloom helps maintain rounded plant appearance and obviates a possible need for staking, but eliminates the developing seed pods which are so attractive (but which can start many new plants).

Noteworthy Characteristics *Baptisia australis*, commonly called blue false indigo, is an upright perennial which typically grows 3-4' tall and occurs in rich woods, thickets and along streambanks. It features purple, lupine-like flowers in erect racemes (to 12") atop flower spikes extending well above a foliage mound of clover-like, trifoliolate, bluish-green leaves (leaflets to 2" long). Blooms in spring. Flowers give way to inflated seed pods (to 2.5" long) which turn charcoal black when ripe and have considerable ornamental interest.

Source: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinder>