

WILD BLUE INDIGO

Baptisia australis



Family:	Fabaceae
Native to:	Eastern United States
Hardiness Zones:	3 to 9
Bloom Time:	May to June
Bloom:	Indigo Blue
Height:	3-4 feet

HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL

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. May be grown from seed, but takes several years to establish. 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.

Did you know?

Flowers give way to inflated seed pods (to 2.5" long) which turn charcoal black when ripe and have considerable ornamental interest. Seeds rattle around in the blackened pods which were once popularly used by children as rattles.

Genus name comes from the Greek word *bapto* meaning to dye. The name *australis* means southern.

Common name refers to the use of this plant by early Americans as a substitute for true indigo in making blue dyes.

It attracts butterflies.