

2025 Native Plant of Distinction: Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)



Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership
for Biodiversity
leapbio.org



Photos by Bright Lane Gardens (top), Mt. Cuba Center (middle) & Dave's Garden (bottom)

Unique Characteristics

Blue false indigo is a long-lived shrubby perennial sporting beautiful clusters of purple/blue flowers on long, upright spikes. The mature seed pods contain numerous, loose, kidney-shaped seeds. Blue false indigo attracts hummingbirds & is herbivore resistant. Drought tolerant once established.

Plant Type: Shrub

Native Range: Central & Eastern North America (except upper New England)

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium

Soil: Prefers well-drained, slightly acidic soil

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 3 to 5 feet

Wildlife: Small mammals and a variety of birds eat the seeds. Host plant for wild indigo duskywing butterflies

Hardiness Zones: 3 to 10

Bloom Time: Clusters of deep blue flowers May to July

Fall Color: Silvery gray

Uses: Specimen shrub; rain garden; pollinator garden; sensory garden (seed pods)



April is

Ohio Native Plant Month