

BLUEBONNET TEXAS

Lupinus texensis(*Fabaceae*)



Characteristics

- Type: Annual
- Habit: Herb
- Root type: Tap
- Height: 1-2 feet
- Water Use: Low
- Light: full sun
- Soil: Dry
- Bloom Color: Blue with white tip
- Blooms: March to May
- Winter Hardy
- State Flower of Texas
- Texas Native
- Well drained soil
- Attractive to bees
- Texas Superstar®

Culture

A hardy winter annual native to Texas. Adopted as the "State Flower of Texas", this is the most commonly seen variety along roadsides and in uncultivated pastures throughout the state. Flowers are densely arranged on a spike with a characteristic ice white terminal tip. Bluebonnets cannot tolerate poorly drained, clay based soils. Seed planted in poorly drained soils will germinate, but plants will never fully develop. Seedlings will become either stunted or turn yellow and soon die. Prefers a sloped area in light to gravelly, well drained, soil with a pH level between 6-7. Seed is scarified for quick germination. Bluebonnets require 8 hours of direct sun.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Texas lupine has larger, more sharply pointed leaves and more numerous flower heads than similar lupines. Light-green, velvety, palmately compound leaves (usually five leaflets) are borne from branching, 6-18 in. stems. These stems are topped by clusters of up to 50 fragrant, blue, pea-like flowers. The tip of the cluster is conspicuously white. This is the species often planted by highway departments and garden clubs and is one of the six *Lupinus* species which are collectively designated the state flower of Texas. Easy to grow from seed providing you plant in well-drained soils and do not have an overabundance of rainfall. Not only does the state flower of Texas bloom oceans of blue, but this famous wildflower forms attractive rosettes in winter.

Problems

Plants in the genus *Lupinus*, especially the seeds, can be toxic to humans and animals if ingested.

Garden Uses

Texas bluebonnets can be grown in raised flower beds, half wooden barrels, hanging baskets, mixtures, hillsides, roadsides and meadows.