

# Baptista australis

## False Indigo



**Hardiness:** zone 3-9

**Height:** 1—1.5 m

**Spread:** 1—1.5 m

**Sunlight:** full sun to partial shade

**Flowers:** May—June

Tolerates rabbit, drought, poor soil  
Attracts butterflies

### **General Description:**

*Baptisia australis*, commonly called blue false indigo, is an upright perennial which occurs in rich woods, thickets and along streambanks from Pennsylvania south to North Carolina and Tennessee. It features purple, lupine-like flowers in erect racemes (to 12") atop flower spikes extending well above a foliage mound of clover-like, trifoliate, 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. Stems with seed pods are valued additions to dried flower arrangements.

### **Care Notes:**

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.