



Amsonia hubrichtii

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Amsonia (am-son-ee-a) Named for Dr. Charles Amson, 18th century Virginia physician.

hubrichtii (ew-brekt-ee-eye) Named after Leslie Hubricht, who found the plant in the early 1940's.



Zones: 6 – 9 **Flower Color:** Powder Blue **Height:** 2 – 3' **Spacing:** 18"

About the Species:

Common Name: Thread-leaf Blue Star, Arkansas Blue Star

Family: Apocynaceae

The powdery blue star-like flowers of *Amsonia hubrichtii* will start blooming in early summer on top of 2-3 feet stems and will last for 2-3 weeks. The cool blue flowers can be used to tone down flower colors surrounding it. The thread-like medium green foliage will turn a golden yellow in the fall, making quite a statement! Its globular mounding habit will look especially well with grasses. The wonderful fine texture of this perennial will add airiness to a bouquet and a fluffiness to the mixed border, looking like a cloud of yellow in the fall. Cutting back the flowering stems will keep this plant neat and tidy. The blue, star-like clusters of flowers, combined with the clear green, ferny foliage during the summer and the intense yellow foliage in the fall make this a three season of interest plant. Give this plant plenty of room to spread with good air circulation. The milky sap of *Amsonias* will discourage munching by deer, rabbits. *Amsonias* are also free of most insect pests.

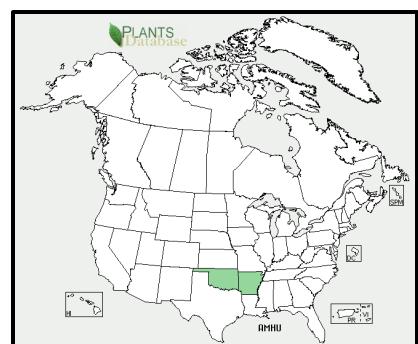
Habitat: This native of tall grass prairies can also be found in dry, rocky outcrops and well-drained creek banks and bottomlands of the South Central United States

In the Garden: *Amsonia hubrichtii* enjoys a wide range of soils from sand to clay and is not fussy about pH levels. This plant grows well in full sun or very light shade and average moisture and is tolerant of heat and drought.

Too much shade or too rich a soil may result in an open and floppy habit. It is best planted in full sun for a beautiful fall foliage display. A backdrop of dark green foliage will really show off this Blue Star.



Foliage in the fall



USDA Plants Database

Strange but True.

In 1942, Leslie Hubricht, a specialist in fresh water mollusks, was on a collecting trip for the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. He was in Garland County, in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma searching for mollusks when he encountered a plant with interesting foliage. Robert Woodson, a botanist, at the Missouri botanic Gardens, recognized that this plant was a distinct species by using plant material provided by Leslie Hubricht. The plant had been collected periodically since 1879 but had been consistently misidentified as *A. ciliata* var. *filifolia*. Woodlanders Nursery introduced this plant to the trade and in 1999 *Amsonia hubrechtii* was selected as a Theodore Klein Plant Award winner.



Amsonia

tabernaemontana

x 'Blue Ice'

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Zones: 5 - 9 **Flower Color:** Lavender Blue **Height:** 15-18" **Spacing:** 18"



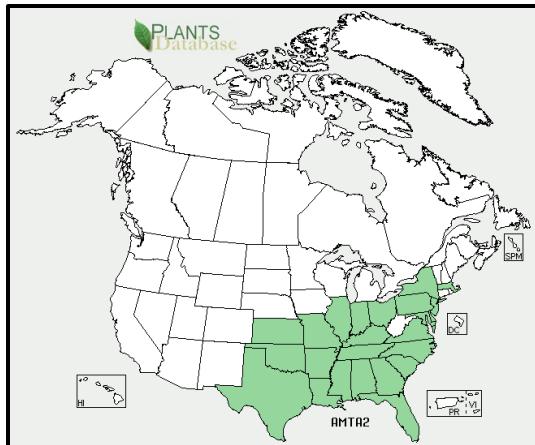
'Blue Ice' was a seedling found, by an eagle-eyed employee of The White Flower Farm, growing in a group of *Amsonia tabernaemontana* and selected for its larger and darker lavender-blue flowers. The exact parentage is not known but it is thought to be a cross between *A. montana* and *A. tabernaemontana*. *A. 'Blue Ice'* has dark green narrow, willow shaped leaves that turn a clear yellow in the fall. For the best fall color, be sure to plant 'Blue Ice' in full sun. The buds are a darker blue, start blooming later, and last longer than the straight species. *Amsonia*'s live up to their common name, Blue Star by covering the plant with its starry blue colored flowers in late spring throughout the summer for an average of 5 weeks. This clump former is late to emerge so be careful not to dig into it during spring planting. *A. 'Blue Ice'* is an excellent edging plant and will grow to a compact 15-18 inches high with a 2 foot wide arching habit. A sweep of *A. 'Blue Ice'* will not only be attractive in the spring/summer when blooming, but again in the fall when the lovely yellow fall foliage will steal the show.

About the Species:

Common Name: Blue Star

Family: Apocynaceae

Habitat: Moist woodlands and stream banks throughout the Eastern United States.



USDA Plants Database

In the Garden: Planting in full sun to light shade and average soil and providing sufficient moisture to survive dry periods until established, will ensure the survivability of this quite drought tolerant plant. The combination of larger blue star shaped flowers in the spring followed by beautiful yellow foliage in the fall adds several seasons of interest to your garden. This native perennial will look great in a mixed border, meadow, or wildflower garden. Pair it with yellow flowering plants for an attractive combination.