

Baptisia alba



Baptisia (bap-tis-ee-a)
From the Greek *bapto-* to dye.
alba (al-ba) meaning white.



Zones: 5 - 9 **Flower Color:** White **Height:** 4' **Spacing:** 18"



About the Species:

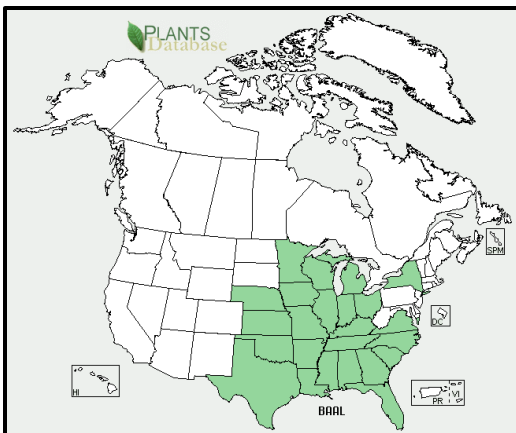
Common Name: White Indigo

Family: Fabaceae

Baptisia alba has white pea-like flowers on charcoal gray stems. The contrast between the flowers and the stems serves as a great design feature. Growing to 4 feet high, this *Baptisia* is as easy to grow as the blue form with the same requirements. In the early spring the unique bare stalks look like charcoal gray asparagus shoots emerging from the soil. The bluish-green leaves are trifoliate and look like clover. The black seedpods turn brown and then black and are considered ornamental in the landscape and used in dried arrangements. White Indigo is slow to become established but will be extremely long lived. The deep taproot helps the plant to survive periods of drought but makes it hard to transplant.

Habitat: White Indigo is native from Maryland to central Florida, north to Minnesota and Nebraska, west to Texas. It occurs in dry, sandy habitats, prairies, stream sides, roadsides, and open disturbed lands and old fields.

In the Garden: *Baptisia* are valued for their spiky form, useful as a focal point, and as an attractive space filler during the summer season.



USDA Plants Database



Baptisia australis



Baptisia (bap-tis-ee-a) From the Greek *bapto*- to dye. **australis** (ow-strah-lis) meaning southern.



Zones: 3 - 9 **Flower Color:** Blue **Height:** 3 - 4' **Spacing:** 18"

About the Species:

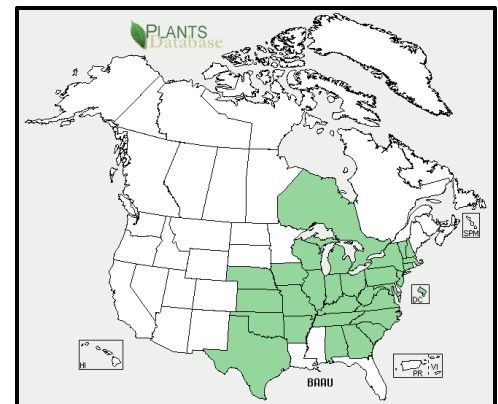
Common Name: False Indigo

Family: Fabaceae

Baptisia australis can be considered a sub-shrub because of its size and structure. A 3 - 4 foot mound of soft gray-green foliage will start to emerge in spring and will be topped in June by intense violet-blue pea-shaped flowers followed by prominent dark seedpods. Grow False Indigo in full sun to part sun, although too much shade will cause this plant to require staking. *Baptisia australis* can be considered a substitution for Lupines, which are difficult to grow in many locations. Use *Baptisia* as a cut flower and its dried seedpods in dried arrangements. This native North American wildflower attracts butterflies and is deer and rabbit resistant.

Habitat: *Baptisia* are found growing in scrub and prairie areas, rich woods, alluvial thickets, as well as on riverbanks, often in rocky soil.

In the Garden: The nice form and bold texture of False Indigo make it an important addition to your garden. *Baptisia* are valued for their spiky architectural form, useful as a focal point, and as attractive space filler during the summer season. As a specimen plant, their structural form can be best appreciated by planting them among ground covers to show off their best features. This durable, long-lived native perennial is extremely weather-resistant and looks great against a stone wall, or at the back of the border. Extremely drought tolerant, this plant prefers a deep, rich, well-drained neutral to slightly acid soil in full sun. False Indigo has a very deep root system and dislikes being relocated.



USDA Plants Database

Other Uses: Use *Baptisia* as a cut flower and its seedpods in dried arrangements. Native Americans used False Indigo as a dye and to treat cuts and scrapes. Other tribes used this plant by pulverizing the seeds and mixing the resulting powder with buffalo fat to treat colic. A cold tea was given to stop vomiting and a hot tea was used as a purgative. A poultice of the root is anti-inflammatory and is held in the mouth to treat toothaches. Parts of this plant may be poisonous if ingested.

A *Baptisia* monograph (family history), published in 1940 by Mary Maxine Larisey, included descriptions, maps and directions to find the original plant colony locations. Most original locations still contain populations of plants. Many locations are found in pastures, and as a result of loss of habitat, this plant is considered threatened and even endangered in several states.

Baptisia australis x 'Purple Smoke'



Baptisia (bap-tis-ee-a) From the Greek *bapto* - to dye, and *australis* (ow-strah-lis) meaning southern.

'Purple Smoke' is a naturally occurring hybrid of *B. alba* and *B. australis* and has all of the attributes of its parents plus wonderful dusty violet flowers. Rob Gardner, former curator at the NC Botanical Garden found 'Purple Smoke'. It was introduced jointly by Niche Gardens and NC Botanical Garden.



Zones: 4 - 9 **Flower Color:** Dusty Violet **Height:** 3 - 4' **Spacing:** 18"

About the Species:

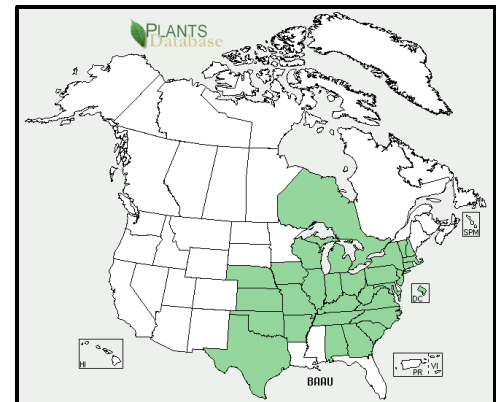
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Family: Fabaceae

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Baptisia australis

x 'Carolina Moonlight'



Baptisia (bap-tis-ee-a) From the Greek *bapto* - to dye and *australis* (ow-strah-lis) meaning southern.

'Carolina Moonlight' has spires of buttery yellow flowers in late spring/early summer and beautiful blue-green foliage. It is considered the southern substitute for the much sought after lupine. It has an adaptable, easy-to-grow nature and makes a great companion for other rugged plants such as ornamental grasses.



Zones: 4 - 8 **Flower Color:** Buttery Yellow **Height:** 3 - 4' **Spacing:** 18"

About the Species:

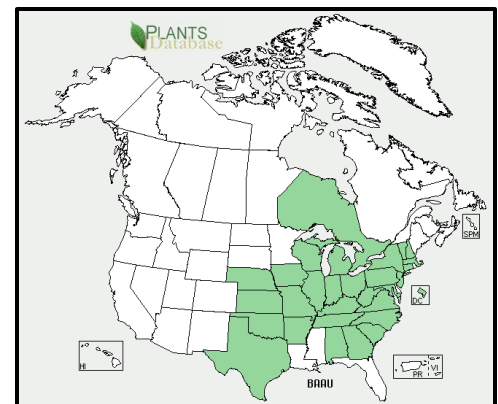
Common Name: False Indigo

Family: Fabaceae

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