

History & Fun Facts

All of the plants we sell are native to the Ohio area. That means they are adapted and ready to be a beautiful, worry free, addition to your yard!



The Blue Wild Indigo is also known as the False Indigo and grows much faster than the true Indigo. This name came about when Europeans would pay for Americans to grow the plant so that they could use the deep blue flowers to make a dye similar in color of the true Indigo. Although this plant is a member of the pea family, parts have been deemed toxic and so it should not be eaten. The Wild Indigo Duskywing butterfly takes advantage of this chemical to protect their eggs from predators.



PPGSA

The Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association (PPGSA) is a non-profit organization. Funding of the activities are provided through volunteer-based activities, such as charities. PPGSA is not an official part of the Ohio State University, but will nonetheless respect many of the bylaws laid forth by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) when appropriate.

These fliers are brought to you by our Outreach Committee. The main function of this committee is to both create a greater student awareness and understanding of plant pathology in order to broaden the numbers of future plant pathologists in our department and across the country as well as to increase community awareness of the general nature of plant pathology.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Dept. of Plant Pathology

Blue Wild Indigo



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Common Problems

It is important to know the common problems different plants in your garden may experience so that you can better manage the issues and ensure your plants are providing the aesthetics you desire.

Baptisia are relatively diseases resistant but do occasionally get some foliar diseases. Powdery mildew, and leaf spot, both caused by fungi, are among the common problems. Symptoms of powdery mildew are a grey or white fluffy or “powdery” appearance on the upper sides of leaves (pictured below). Spider mites may also occasionally occur.

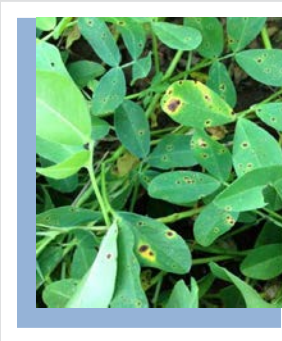


Image left: powdery mildew on indigo. Image Right: leaf spot on peanut.

Plant Requirements and Description

Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Mature Height and Spread:

3-4 feet tall
2-3 feet wide

Growth Rate:

Moderate

Light Requirement:

Full Sun to Partial Shade

Other Requirements:

Moderately dry to moderately wet soil

Description:

These plants establish by first growing an extensive root system, which makes them drought tolerant. Vertical growth begins to increase in subsequent years, producing striking blue flowers from May to June.

This leguminous plant is a member of the bean family (Fabaceae) and partners with rhizobial bacteria to produce its own fertilizer from nitrogen in the air.

Management

- Keep plants well-spaced & weed free. Spacing helps reduce humidity in the foliage which prevent fungal growth.
- Planting plants in a sunny location. In addition, to photosynthetic health of your flowers, this also helps dry out any moisture and prevent fungal growth.
- Water the plants from the bottom. Watering plants from the bottom is a wise practice no matter the plant. This prevents excess moisture on the leaves which can lead to fungal growth or scotching from the sun.
- Remove any & all infected plant parts. Make sure not to compost any infected plant parts as the fungal spores can be spread by wind or water.
- For mites: gently shake the branches of the bush to dislodge the insects or use a strong spray of water.

Sources

- <http://www.prairiemoon.com/seeds/wildflowers-forbs/baptisia-australis-blue-wild-indigo.html>
- <http://gardening.about.com/od/plantprofiles/p/Baptisia-australis.htm>
- <http://www.gpnc.org/plains.htm>
- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b660>
- <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenec2bb.html>

