

False Indigo

Baptisia australis



immature seed pod



'Purple Smoke'



summer habit



Prairieblues™ Solar Flare

False Indigo

Baptisia australis

Family: Fabaceae

Stem & Leaf Type: herbaceous

Leaf Color: medium to dark green

Fall Color: n/a

Flower Time: April, May

Flower Color: indigo blue, also white, purple, yellow

Fruit: pods 2-1/2" long, brown to black, when ripe, seeds rattle inside the leathery, hard seed pod.

Light: full sun

Moisture: moist, well-drained

USDA Hardiness

Zones: 3-9

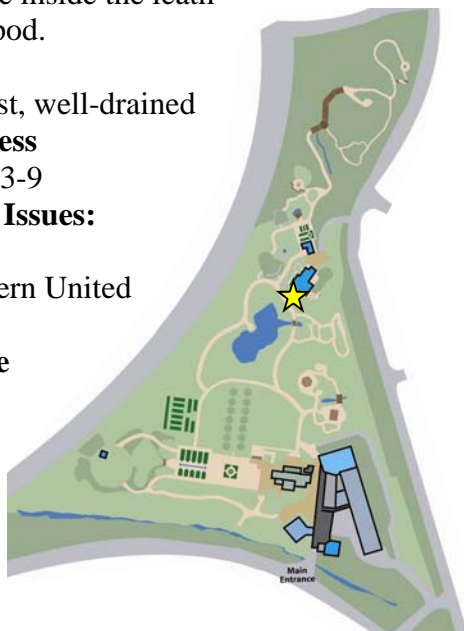
Insect/Disease Issues:

None serious

Nativity: Eastern United States

Location in the Gardens:

Town & Country Garden—
Front Yard
Garden



Landscape Value: Good multi-season interest with show stopping blue to indigo blue flowers in the spring and interesting black seed pods in the fall. Plant in a space where it will have room to grow, plants grow 3’-4’ tall and wide. Plants get almost shrub like and do not like to be moved once established. Those planted in part shade will still have blooms but will more likely flop over and need some sort of support. Plants prefer well-drained but moist soils. The shrubby plants work well for middle or back of the border plants where they can showcase beautiful flowers in the spring and then serve as a backdrop for other shorter plants throughout the summer and fall. Plants were used a poor substitute for blue dye—hence the common name.

Notes: The Prairieblues™ series is a great group of great cultivars, including Starlite, Twilite, Midnight and Solar Flare. ‘Purple Smoke’ is another great “stand-by” cultivar.

Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec