



Texas Bluebonnet

Lupinus texensis

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 14 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Texas Lupine

Description:

A native variety producing spikes of eye catching blue flowers with white centers; a tremendous visual impact massed in the garden, border plantings or in containers

Ornamental Features

Texas Bluebonnet features bold spikes of blue pea-like flowers with white eyes rising above the foliage from early to late spring, which emerge from distinctive white flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its palmate leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Texas Bluebonnet is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Texas Bluebonnet is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Texas Bluebonnet flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Texas Bluebonnet will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 14 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Texas Bluebonnet is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.