

# Purple Smoke False Indigo



## ***Baptisia 'Purple Smoke'***

- **Use:** Features smoky violet, lupine-like flowers (from *B. australis*) and gray-green, clover-like foliage on charcoal stems (from *B. alba*). Blue Wild Indigo has a deep taproot which permits it to withstand dry conditions and heat. It makes a nice backdrop in the perennial garden.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers full-part sun. It's fairly drought tolerant and needs little water once established.
- **Growth:** Grows 3-4 tall and wide. Plants may be increased by dividing in spring, every 4 to 5 years, or by moving any seedlings that may appear, while they are still small. May need staking.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-9; Perennial.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Attractive, blue-green, lobed foliage remains effective throughout the growing season.
- **Flower:** Purple flowers appear in mid-spring, opening up from bottom to top in erect but slightly arching terminal racemes (to 1' long) which extend well above the foliage. Flowers give way to cylindrical, bean-like seed pods (to 2.5" long) which have good ornamental interest and are sometimes used in dried flower arrangements.



A good substitute for Lupines, in areas where they are difficult to grow. Makes an excellent cut flower, also attractive to butterflies. Drought tolerant, once established.