



# Wild Lupine

*Lupinus perennis*

Light:	Sun, Partial Sun
Soil:	Loam, Sand, Gravel
Moisture:	Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry
Benefits:	Birds, Hummingbirds, Native Bees, Deer Resistant
Height:	1' to 2'
Blooms:	June, July
Zones:	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Color:	Blue-purple
Spacing:	1'
Root:	Taproot

Wild Lupine requires well-drained soils in full or partial sun and orients itself to the direction of the sun, thereby earning the nickname “sundial lupine”. Of benefit to hummingbirds and butterflies, the Pollinator Program of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has also designated it as a special value to native bees. As a legume, this plant fixes nitrogen in the soil.

Wild Lupine grows up to 2 feet tall with 7 to 11 palmate leaflets up to 2 inches long per stalk. The flower spikes are up to 8 inches long and the seedpods are small and fuzzy containing 3 seeds each.

The vast majority of lupine in our area are not native to the Midwest, having been introduced from the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, the introduced lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) hybridizes easily with Wild Lupine and crowds out native plants.

Both Photos:  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org>