

Baptisia 'Carolina Moonlight'

Carolina Moonlight Yellow False Indigo

Baptisia 'Carolina Moonlight' (Carolina Moonlight Yellow False Indigo) brings a lemonade yellow twist to the hardy, reliable Baptisia. This plant begins in early spring as asparagus-like wands emerging from the soil. In May and June, pale cream-yellow flower spikes up to 18" long stand above the tidy, blue-green foliage. Its blooms attract many bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Bumblebees are the most common visitor and most adept at getting nectar and pollen by efficiently prying open the flower petals with their large bodies. After the flowers fade, large green seed pods form (2-3" long), turn to charcoal-black in fall and persist until a heavy winter snow. Like other Baptisia species, this nativar is a great low maintenance plant for urban landscapes. It is drought, heat, salt, and deer tolerant. It also fixes nitrogen and provides erosion control owing to its deep taproot. Said taproot also makes transplanting difficult once established. For best performance, plant in full sun and poor soils, although this species will tolerate a range of soil conditions and part sun. Plants may need support in lower light. Like many Baptisia, this plant has a neat appearance in the garden. Carolina Moonlight reaches 3-4' tall and wide, and it brings late spring color and year round texture to the garden. It pairs well with warm-season plants such as switchgrass, milkweeds, and blazing stars.

Botanical Name: Baptisia 'Carolina Moonlight'

Common Name: Carolina Moonlight Yellow False Indigo

Family: Fabaceae

Nativity: US Native

USDA Zone: 4 to 9

Light Type: Full sun to part shade

Soil Type: Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Well-drained; prefers sandy, poor soils.

Soil Moisture: Dry to moist

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 3-4'

Foliage: Blue green, three-lobed foliage

Bloom Time: May, June

Bloom: Pale, cream-yellow

Ecological features: Deep roots provide erosion control; nitrogen-fixer; bumble bees are the primary pollinator, but also butterflies and other insects; songbirds may eat the seeds in fall and winter.

Tolerance of: Drought, deer, salt, heat

Additional notes: No serious insect or disease problems. Plant develops a deep taproot and is best left undisturbed once established.

Companion plants: Other Baptisia species, Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Hydrangea species

For more information see:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=258954&isprofile=0&>

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Baptisia--Carolina-Moonlight>

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/baptisia-carolina-moonlight>

https://1x848d9mftq5g9wx3epiqa1d-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Baptisia_Report- web version.pdf

Images of Baptisia 'Carolina Moonlight'



<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Baptisia--Carolina-Moonlight>

Erect plant form



<https://www.bluestoneperennials.com/BACM.html#zoom-image>

Flower



<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Baptisia--Carolina-Moonlight>

Pea-shaped flower



https://www.google.com/search?q=baptisia+carolina+moonlight+seed&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS817US817&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiVrfT04pXqAhWUcc0KHaCSBXsQ_AUoAXoECAwQAw&biw=1920&bih=914&dpr=2#imgrc=O9-g-Hc7KEjFVM

Seed pods

Image choices for narrative:

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Baptisia--Carolina-Moonlight>

Erect plant form

https://www.google.com/search?q=baptisia+carolina+moonlight+seed&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS817US817&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiVrfT04pXqAhWUcc0KHaCSBXsQ_AUoAXoECAwQAw&biw=1920&bih=914&dpr=2#imgrc=O9-g-Hc7KEjFVM

Seed pods