

Baptisia leucantha

White Wild Indigo

Baptisia leucantha (White Wild Indigo) stems emerge from the soil as attractive gray-green stalks topped with bright green leaf bunches and a holding already formed flower buds. As the foliage expands, the flower buds elongate to a towering inflorescence with pea-like flowers that open from its base to tip over several weeks. After pollination, flowers produce showy oblong dark brown pods by early fall, each holding seeds that rattle in the wind. Wait until late winter to cut back stems for lovely winter form. The beautiful velvet green foliage on this shrub-like perennial offers a backdrop to highlight other summer-blooming perennials. *Baptisia leucantha* is a long-lived, native perennial that grows 3-4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide, with an erect and clumping form. It prefers full sun to light shade and poor, sandy soils but can grow on any non-acidic soil type with good drainage. It is tolerant of drought, deer, salt and heat. *Baptisia* is a nitrogen-fixing genus offering additional ecosystem services of food and shelter to birds, bees and butterflies.

Botanical Name: *Baptisia leucantha*

Common Name: White Wild Indigo

Family: Fabaceae

Nativity: US native

USDA Zone: 3 to 9

Light Type: Full sun to light shade

Soil Type: Sand, loam, clay

Soil Preferences: dry, poor soils, but is fine with any soil type that is well-drained

Soil Moisture: Dry to moist

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 2-3'

Foliage: Blue green

Bloom Time: May - June

Bloom: White

Ecological features: Bird, bee, butterfly habitats, nitrogen fixer

Tolerance of: Drought, deer, salt, heat

Additional notes: very striking bloom, beautiful foliage offsets neighboring plants; clump-forming with large taproot, so not be disturbed once established.

Companion plants: Walker's Blue Catmint (*Nepeta*), Caradonna Sage (*Salvia*), Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*),

For more information see:

https://1x848d9mftq5g9wx3epiqa1d-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/w+AH7:AK7p-content/uploads/2016/06/Baptisia_Report- web_version.pdf

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=280691&isprofile=0&>

https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/ww_indigox.htm<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Eryngium-yuccifolium>

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Eryngium-yuccifolium>

Images of *Baptisia leucantha*



CBG Evening Island - *Baptisia leucantha*, Rosa Rainbow Knock Out 150623 (20340504031).jpg
Spire of white pea-like flowers in full bloom



Baptisia leucantha kz1.jpg Foliage in spring



Baptisia alba MLA-2.jpg Flower on the head



CBG Evening Island - Baptisia leucantha, Rosa Rainbow Knock Out, Miscanthus 'Malepartus', Fagus grandiflora, Ulmus 'New Horizon' 150623 (20146441058).jpg
Plant form

Image choices for narrative:

CBG Evening Island - Baptisia leucantha, Rosa Rainbow Knock Out 150623 (20340504031).jpg -- Flower bloom
Baptisia leucantha kz1.jpg -- Foliage in spring