

Lobelia siphilitica Great Blue Lobelia

Lobelia siphilitica (Great Blue Lobelia) is a charming filler plant native to wet prairies, wetland edges, and stream banks. Its columnar stature and ability to lightly re-seed allow it to pop up naturally and respectfully, bringing a beautiful blue surprise for 4 -6 weeks in the mid to late summer garden. Lime green basal rosettes emerge in early spring. Plants quietly wait for mid-summer, when showy, deep blue-violet flower spikes steal the show. Occasionally, a genetic tweak will result in delicate white blooms instead of the usual blue. The large, tubular flowers are visited regularly by bumblebees, which are strong enough to wriggle the petals apart. *Lobelia siphilitica* is most at home in a lightly shaded border or rain garden edge. It needs constant moisture if grown in full sun. While not particularly showy, cream to tan dried stems will persist throughout the winter. Resistant to deer and other mammals.

Botanical Name: *Lobelia siphilitica*

Common Name: Great Blue Lobelia

Family: Campanulaceae

Nativity: Great Lakes Native

USDA Zone: 4-8

Light Type: Full sun to Part Shade

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Rich soil

Soil Moisture: Medium, Wet

Typical height (ft): 2-3'

Typical width (ft): 1-1.5'

Foliage: Medium to Dark Green

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom: Deep blue-violet

Ecological features: food resources for bumblebees, butterflies, hummingbirds; erosion control

Tolerance of: Deer, Wet Soil, mild drought tolerance

Additional notes: Will tolerate full sun in northern climates, otherwise appreciates part shade. Not drought tolerant. Stem & roots die after seeding, but new shoots will form.

Companion plants: Ice Ballet Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata* 'Ice Ballet'), Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*), Bristly Sedge (*Carex comosa*), Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), Blue Mistflower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*), Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Goldenrod species (*Solidago* spp.)

For more information see:

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Lobelia-siphilitica>

https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/gb_lobeliax.htm

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/blue-lobelia>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=i460>

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Lobelia-siphilitica->

Images of *Lobelia siphilitica*



Lobelia siphilitica kz2.jpg Spike-shaped flower clusters



Lobelia siphilitica 0002.JPG Blue-violet flower, close up



Lobelia siphilitica seedlings.jpg Seedlings



Lobelia siphilitica_1.jpg Plant form - erect stems with tubular flowers



Lobelia siphilitica_3.jpg Winter interest

Image choices for narrative:

Lobelia siphilitica kz2.jpg -- Spike-shaped flower clusters

Lobelia siphilitica 0002.JPG -- Blue-violet flower, close up