

Scutellaria incana Downy Skullcap

Scutellaria incana (Downy Skullcap) is a showy native wildflower that is right at home in dappled shade gardens. Pairs of violet-blue, tubular flowers (1" long) appear on clusters of terminal spikes (6" long) for 4-6 weeks from July to September. Flowers attract mostly bumblebees, but occasionally small butterflies. This upright plant features ovate, opposite leaves (3" long) that give the plant a lush appearance. Compared to other Skullcaps, Downy Skullcap blooms later and grows taller (2-3'). Plants spread via underground rhizomes to slowly fill in. This plant prefers part shade and well-drained soils, but can tolerate a range of soil types, as well as full sun. Foliage is bitter tasting, which deters most herbivores, and established plants are drought and heat tolerant. Downy Skullcap is a hardy, beautiful plant that brings long-blooming interest to dry, shady areas.

Botanical Name: Scutellaria incana

Common Name: Downy Skullcap

Family: Lamiaceae

Nativity: Great Lakes Native

USDA Zone: 4 to 9

Light Type: Full Sun to Part Shade; prefers dappled sunlight

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Prefers well-drained, slightly acidic sandy or clay soils

Soil Moisture: Dry to Moist

Typical height (ft): 2-3'

Typical width (ft): 1-2'

Foliage: Medium green to yellow-green

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom: Blue, Purple, Violet

Ecological features: Floral resources attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Tolerance of: Drought, Heat, Deer

Additional notes: Flowers are visited primarily by bumblebees; great potential for dry shade area; in the wild, can be found in high quality natural areas.

Companion plants: Gray's Sedge (*Carex grayi*), Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia virginica*), Smooth Blue Aster (*Aster laevis*), Downy Wood Mint (*Blephilia ciliata*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*), Barren Strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*).

For more information see:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f530>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SCIN

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Scutellaria-incana>

https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/dwn_skullcap.htm

<https://mtcubacenter.org/plants/downy-skullcap/#:~:text=Downy%20skullcap%20is%20drought%20tolerant,'Gateway'%20and%20Gentiana%20clausa.>

Images of Scutellaria incana



Scutellaria incana.jpg flower clusters



Scutellaria incana 1.jpg
close-up of blooms



Scutellaria_incana_seed_capsules_09-18-2010rs2.jpg
seed heads



Scutellaria+incana+(5).jpg
plant form



skullcap-Lurie-Garden-10.2016.png
fall interest

Image choices for narrative:

Scutellaria incana.jpg - flower clusters

Scutellaria incana 1.jpg - close-up of blooms