

Baptisia

A native North American wildflower, False Indigo is an excellent choice for sunny gardens all over the continent. Plants form a tall, bushy clump of gray-green foliage, with long spikes of pea-like flowers, in shades of violet-blue. A good substitute for lupines, in areas where they are difficult to grow. Makes an excellent cut flower.

The combination of flower and leaf color is dramatic in the early blooming season. Flowers are followed by inflated seed pods that are useful for dried flower arrangements..

For bouquets, the big problem is getting them with a decent stem. One solution is to cut the main stem that the pods are on at just about ground level. Then trim everything but the sub-stem with the pods off that main stem. These pods can also be sprayed gold.

Attention 'back-to-the-earth' parents! Not only does *Baptisia australis* fix nitrogen in the soil, its dried seed pods make very satisfactory rattles to amuse the leaders of tomorrow

Try these combinations:

- baptisia – tanacetum – trollius - aruncus
- baptisia – aruncus - roses
- baptisia – silene orient. – anthemis
- baptisia – silene orient. – leucanthemum



The flower spikes fit very well in combined bouquets like these:

