

CHICAGOLAND GROWS®, INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #20



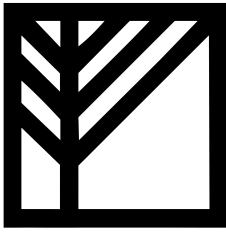
Twilite Prairieblues™ False Indigo

Baptisia xvariicolor 'Twilite' US PPAE, CA PBRAF, EEC PBRAF
Twilite Prairieblues™

An extremely robust and vigorous selection of baptisia bred at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Twilite Prairieblues™ features violet-purple flowers highlighted with a yellow keel.



Chicagoland Grows® is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).



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Baptisia xvariicolor 'Twilite' US PPAF, CA PBRAF, EEC PBRAF
Twilite Prairieblues™

Botanical Name

Baptisia xvariicolor 'Twilite'

Common Name

Twilite Prairieblues™ false indigo

Family

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Origin

Twilite Prairieblues™ is a selection from a controlled cross of *Baptisia* (*australis* × *sphaerocarpa*) made by Dr. Jim Ault of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Hardiness

U.S.D.A. Zones 4-9

Bloom Season

This selection starts blooming in northern Illinois (U.S.D.A. Zone 5) in mid-May with a heavy flush in early to mid-June.

General Description and Habit

Twilite Prairieblues™ is a long-lived easily grown bicolor baptisia, selected from a controlled cross by Dr. Jim Ault. Twilite Prairieblues™ is unusually quick to mature for a baptisia; three-year-old plants produce upward of 100 flowering racemes. Blooms are long lasting, beginning in late May and continuing through the first weeks of June. The blue-green, trifoliate foliage stays spotless all season. Twilite Prairieblues™ needs ample space to stretch in the garden, as the plant can reach 5' tall x 4' to 5' wide.

Size

3 1/2' to 5' tall x 4' to 5' wide in 3 years.

Growth Rate

Reaches mature size quickly for a baptisia.

Ornamental Characteristics

An extremely robust and vigorous selection, Twilite Prairieblues™ features lupinelike flowers in a smokey violet-purple that is highlighted by a lemon-yellow keel. The flowers are produced in erect racemes that extend beyond the foliage, creating an incredible floral display from late spring into early summer. The clean, blue-green foliage makes a fantastic backdrop for other flowering plants all summer. In the late season, the green inflated seedpods turn charcoal black, making a valued addition to dried flower arrangements.

Culture

Prefers well-drained dry to medium wet soils in full sun. Has exceptional tolerance to poor soils and drought. These long-lived plants should not be disturbed once established.

Pest and Disease Problems

None known.

Landscape Value

Excellent as specimens, at the back of a border, or planted in groups in a prairie or meadow setting.

Propagation

Division, vegetative and root cuttings, tissue culture. Plants propagated from seed will not be true to type.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.



For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact the Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, (847) 835-8301.