



***Baptisia alba* – White Baptisia**

COMMON NAME: White baptisia, white wild indigo

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Baptisia alba* – The name comes from the Greek word *baptizein* meaning “ to dye” for its use as a substitute(rather poor substitute) for real indigo dye. *Alba* means white.

FLOWER: White; arranged in a spike-like cluster. The flowers are similar to pea blossoms.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Early June to mid- or late July

SIZE: 3 to 5 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Long lived perennial with a very deep taproot. Difficult to transplant large plants. Elegant accent in a small prairie planting.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun, although it will persist in light shade. Tolerates a wide range of soil types from moist to moderately dry, sand, clay or gravel. It dislikes alkaline soils.

NATURAL RANGE: Central US from Ohio and southwestern Ontario to Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska, south to Mississippi and Texas. Occurs in southern and western Wisconsin, most frequently on moist prairies.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Attractive in bloom while its leaf texture and color are distinctive all season. Inflated pods ripen to black and make striking dried arrangements. In natural settings it acts like a tumbleweed rolling across the prairie in winter, scattering seeds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Young plants should be watered carefully until established. It should not be disturbed once established because of its deep and extensive root system.

COMPANION PLANTS: On moderately dry, sandy sites it occurs with partridge pea, flowering spurge, downy phlox, black-eyed Susan, prairie willow, grass-leaved goldenrod, Indian grass, needle grass and spiderwort.