



photo: Dan Jaffe

BLUE LOBELIA

Lobelia siphilitica

Wow! This plant has it all—light to dark blue, tubular, 2-lipped flowers blooming in tall spikes late in the season. Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and countless other beneficial insects.

Species is Potentially Extirpated in Maine.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Hummingbird and butterfly magnet! Attracts many beneficial insects
- Excellent nectar source for long-tongued bees
- Only food plant for the Lobelia Weevil, *Cleopomiarus hispidulus*

Host to 6 caterpillar species:
(*common names*) Pink-Washed Looper Moth; Plevie's Aquatic Moth; Greater Black-Letter Dart; Spotted Cut-Worm; Red-Banded Leafroller Moth; Dark-Spotted Palthis

Benefits for People

- Forms colonizing clumps and may self seed
- Plant with Cardinal Flower for a stunning combination
- Native Americans used medicinally to induce vomiting and cure tobacco and alcohol addictions

Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Soil Type</i>	Medium to wet soils—needs constant moisture
<i>Height</i>	2–3'
<i>Width</i>	1–2'
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	July to September

Natural Habitat

- Streams, swamps, and in low wooded areas

