



Photos: Arthur Haines

SUNDIAL (OR WILD) LUPINE

Lupinus perennis

This long-lived perennial lupine boasts tall clusters of purple/blue pea-like flowers. Palmate leaves are beautiful on their own! Like other plants in the pea family, it enhances soil by fixing nitrogen into a usable form.

Growing Information

Sunlight Sun, part shade
Soil Type Dry and sandy, well-drained
Height 1-3'
Flowering calendar April-July

Benefits for Wildlife

Leaves Yes, deer
Flowers Yes, attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds
Fruit
Seeds Yes, birds and small mammals

Host to caterpillar species
(*common names*): Eastern-tailed Blue; Silvery Blue; Red-Humped Caterpillar

Benefits for People

- Enhances soil fertility through nitrogen fixing.
- Deadhead spent flowers to promote additional blooms
- Collect seed in June-July before pod explodes.
- Seeds can be toxic to humans and animals if ingested.

Natural Habitat

- Sand hills
- Open woods
- Clearings

