



photo: Matthews, Ray, Austin, Tx 2013

## Blue False Indigo      *Baptisia australis*

- 2-4 ft tall, native: NJ, northeastern US, winter dormant perennial
- Blue violet flower spikes bloom May to June
- Dry to moist soil, in sun to part shade
- Legume; will fix nitrogen; may need bacterial inoculum
- Attracts pollinators; Butterfly host plant (Wild Indigo Duskywing)
- Interesting plant in all seasons; Plant is slightly toxic
- Tolerates deer, drought, poor soil, clay soil
- Prefers slightly acid soil with some compost; Deep roots; up to 8 ft deep
- Propagates easily from seed; may not bloom in first 3 years
- Collect ripe seeds July – August, when pods turn brown
- Crack open the pods to release seeds
- Store seeds cold and dry to maintain dormancy
- When ready to sow, scratch seed coat or soak in hot water overnight
- Press seeds into moist soil surface, seeds need light to germinate
- Seeds may not need cold stratification, but it can't hurt
- Seeds will germinate in 2 to 3 weeks at 70° F with light