



Photo: Niagra Botanic Garden, On Makin, Julie 2012

## Great Blue Lobelia *Lobelia siphilitica*

- 2-4 ft tall, native: NJ/NE US perennial, semi-evergreen
- Blue flower spikes bloom August - September
- Moist to average soil; sun to shade; avoid leaf/mulch cover in winter
- Flowers attract native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds
- Good raingarden plant; tolerates deer, clay soil
- Once thought to cure syphilis
- Self-seeds in optimum growing conditions, forms attractive colonies
- Collect brown seed heads September – November, air dry in a bag
- Seeds are extremely tiny, shake seeds out of capsules very carefully
- Store seeds dry & cold to maintain dormancy
- Press seeds firmly into soil surface in pots or outside in garden bed
- Do not cover with soil; very tiny seeds need light to germinate
- Keep seed pots moist at 40°F for 6 weeks to break dormancy
- Move seeds to 70°F with light to germinate