**Lupinus perennis**

**Wild Lupine**

Wild lupine’s beautiful blue flowers and palmate leaves are emblematic of the Oak Openings Region in northwest Ohio. Exacting in its habitat requirements, wild lupine is not a fit for all gardens. For gardeners with the right soil, it is a beautiful and beneficial plant.

### Characteristics

| Height: 2 ft |
| Spread: 1 ft |
| Bloom time: May-June |
| Bloom color: Blue/purple |

### Attributes

- Short-lived perennial that self-sows
- Showy blue/purple flowers
- Attractive palmate leaves
- Flowers attract pollinators; seeds attract birds and small mammals
- Roots fix nitrogen; improves soils
- The only larval host plant for the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly; also hosts other more common butterfly species

### Growing and Maintenance

- **Soil requirements:** Well-drained
- **Light requirements:** Full Sun, Part Sun
- **Water requirements:** Medium, Dry
- Requires sandy soils; tends to either thrive and spread under ideal growing conditions, or fail to grow entirely
- Susceptible to powdery mildew; full sun and good air circulation ideal
- Requires acidic-neutral soils
- Commercially sold lupine plants are usually hybrids of other lupine species; do not have the same characteristics
- Poor drainage can cause roots to rot

### Native Range

- Grows in oak savannah, sandy prairies, and pine barrens in the eastern US
- In Ohio, its range is restricted to 10 counties in the north
- Look for wild lupine locally in Oak Openings Metropark and Kitty Todd and Wintergarden Nature Preserves

**Developed by Black Swamp Conservancy**

References listed at www.blackswamp.org/factsheetreferences/