

# Wild Lupin

Wild Lupin is a native perennial that forms blue-mauve flower stalks. It is beloved by pollinators, and is the only host plant of the Karner Blue Butterfly. Lupin is part of the bean family, so it fixes nitrogen in the soil, helping to improve the health of the garden and ecosystem. It prefers sunny sites with poor soil.

**Type:** Perennial

**Height:** 30-60 cm (12-24")

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Difficulty:** Intermediate



## Growing

These seeds need to undergo scarification and cold stratification in order to germinate. Rub the tough seeds with sandpaper or a nail file, and then place them in a damp cloth in a sealed bag in the fridge for 6-8 weeks. Sow them indoors about 6-8 weeks before the last frost. Sow seeds 5 mm (1/2") deep about 30-45cm (12-18") apart. Transplant seedlings outside after a hardening off period, but do so gently without disturbing the root system.

Seeds can also be direct sown outside in the late fall for next-season blooms.

## Saving

Lupin are part of the bean family, so their seed pods look like short pea pods. Once flowers face, pods will form. Once pods dry out and seeds can be heard rattling inside, pick them off of the plant and allow them to dry for another week in a cool, dry place. Pop seeds from the pods. Put the seeds into a dated and labelled envelope and return to Brock!