



White False (Wild) Indigo

White False Indigo is a member of the pea family, and while its flowers are showy, they produce no scent. Thick asparagus-like sprouts appear in early May. By June and July the plant produces creamy white flowers that grow in erect spike-like cones up to two feet long. They are typical pea flowers--about 1 inch long.

Worker bumblebees pollinate the flowers. As summer progresses, green seed pods develop and turn black as the plant matures. The seed pods can house weevils that feed on the seeds.

White indigo will grow to between two and six feet in height. It is drought-tolerant and long-lived with deep and extensive root systems, and should not be disturbed once established. As it matures, it takes on more of a shrubby appearance and tends to open up after bloom. The roots increase nitrogen levels in the soil.

Caption

White False Indigo

Baptisia alba (formerly *leucantha*)

FACT: Because it is poisonous to consume, it is not bothered by deer and other mammalian herbivores.

Resources

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b650>

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/ww_indigox.htm

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=BAAL