

Lupinus argenteus

Silvery Lupine



Plant type:	Perennial
Season of Interest:	Late spring to mid-summer
Height: 18-30"	Spread: 18-24"
Water needs:	Low to Xeric
Native Region:	CO, AZ, KS, NE, NM, OK, TX, UT, WY
Elevation:	4,800'-10,500'
Important to know:	Will spread by seed to create stands in meadows, not overly aggressive.
Maintenance:	Low
Characteristics:	Showy spikes of purple flowers and silvery palmate leaves.



Habitat:	Dry meadows and forest openings
Garden uses:	Beds/borders, banks/slopes, restoration

Ease of Propagation: Medium

Propagation: Store seeds dry at 40° or 70°.
For fall sowing: Scarify by pouring boiling water over the seeds. Let the water cool. Soak for 24 hours. Repeat if necessary. Inoculate the seeds with rhizobium legume inoculant (optional). Sow in situ or in cells/pots, cover the seeds. Containers will stay outside all winter.

OR For spring sowing: 46 days before the last frost date, do a boiling water treatment and 24h soak. Inoculate the seeds with rhizobium legume inoculant (opt.). Sow, cover the seeds, place containers outside if you did not sow in situ.

After scarification, radicles begin to emerge in 7-9 days at 40°F. If you collect the seeds slightly “green” before they form a hard seed coat, you can sow them immediately. They will germinate in 10-14 days. They will be sticky and the color will be more tan than green. This has worked on every legume I have tried. It also helps avoid seed predation by insects. I use the term “green” to indicate a hard seed coat has not formed. [Jan Midgley’s Germination Guide 10/2024]

