

FBMG Help Desk

Question of the Week

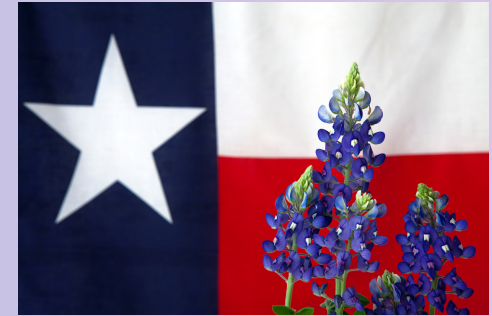
Will Bluebonnets grow in my home garden and when should I plant them?

Answer: They can be a wonderful addition to the home garden, now is the time for bluebonnets and wildflowers too.



The Texas State Flower

Bluebonnets dot the landscape each year from late winter to early spring.



They are well adapted to drought and freeze.



Bluebonnets are Annuals

In one year, they are able to complete their entire life cycle from seed germination to development of roots, stems, leaves, flowers and producing seeds.



It is this versatility that will help you make the Bluebonnet a welcome addition to your home landscape.



Good for the soil and the pollinators

Butterflies and Bees



Host to some
Gossamer-winged butterflies
(family *Lycaenidae*)
made up of 100's of species
such as hairstreaks,
harvesters, and elfins.



Additionally Bluebonnets Provide Nectar and Pollen for a Variety of Bees



A member of the pea (legume) family

Bluebonnets enhance and enrich the soil by producing nitrogen, an essential nutrient for plants ability to complete their life cycle from seed germination, to development of roots, stems, leaves, flowers and seeds.

Bluebonnets are Beautiful in the Garden

Some Simple Steps to get Started

Bluebonnets are native to Texas and grow freely in the wild.

They do best when given minimum attention.



For Best Results Plant:

- *In full sun*
- *In well draining soil*
- *Use chemically scarified seed or transplants*
 - *don't bury the crown when planting*
 - *don't completely bury the seeds*
- *Sow or plant in the fall*
- *Be careful not to overwater*



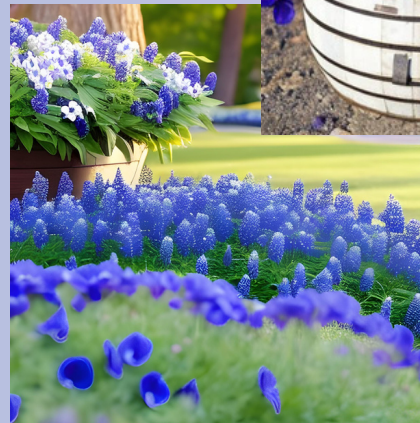
Compliment with Companion Plants

Increase the Wow with Companion Plants

Bluebonnets make great companion plants for cold winter annuals like pansies and warm weather perennials such as lantana in containers, & raised flowerbeds.



- Fall/Winter annuals will provide color until the bluebonnets bloom in spring
- Once the bluebonnet blooms start to fade summer blooming annuals or perennials can shine until fall.
- Most important is to make sure that the soil is well drained and there is plenty of sunlight.



Lady Bird Johnson Royal Blue Bluebonnet

A Texas Superstar

After extensive trials the Lady Bird Johnson Royal Blue Bluebonnet emerged as a true Texas Superstar!



- *Amazing Color*
- *More blooms than the traditional bluebonnets*
- *easy to propagate*
- *produces 40 % more seed*
- *easy to grow from seed or transplant*
- *does well in a variety of settings*

Growing Bluebonnets in Bermuda Grass

It takes a bit of effort to get Bluebonnets started in the Lawn



To help ensure success in overseeding Bluebonnets;

The lawn must be Bermuda or Zoysia. (Bermuda is best)

Needs a daily minimum of 8-10 hours of direct sun.

Watering is only done if normal winter rainfall is not received.

The overseeding process includes:

- *Using an aerator that removes soil plugs, aerate the Bermuda before Thanksgiving.*
- *Sow the seed on the aerated area.*
- *Work the seed into the roughed up turf and the holes with a fine rake or a broom.*
- *Water the seed in thoroughly.*

You should have bluebonnet plants putting down roots and enriching your soil with nitrogen over the winter and rewarding you with lovely blooms in the spring.

Remember to mow the lawn after blooming.



ST. AUGUSTINE WILL NOT WORK

CAUTION: As a broadleaf plant, broadleaf herbicides will harm Bluebonnets.

Bluebonnets & other Spring Flowers

For Texas Wildflowers Fall is the best time to plant!

*There are a variety of wildflowers to choose from at the
Texas Department of Transportation
regional seed list*

<https://www.txdot.gov/about/campaigns-outreach/bluebonnets-wildflowers/regional-seed-list.html>



***Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu***

***Phone:
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon***

PLANTanswers Home | Aggie Horticulture

Horticulturist: Grow bluebonnets instead of picking them - AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

Lady Bird Johnson bluebonnet 'bluer than blue' - AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

Host Plants by Butterfly Species (dallasbutterflies.com)

When to Plant Bluebonnet Seeds (sfgate.com)

Texas Bluebonnet (bhg.com)

<https://texasproud.com/texas-state-flower-bluebonnet/>

TSHA | Bluebonnet (tshaonline.org)

www.britannica.com/animal/gossamer-winged-butterfly

Butterfly-Handout-NEW.pdf (tngaustin.com)

<https://www.wildflower.org/expert/show.php?id=5545>

How Do Flowers & Bees Help Each Other? | Sciencing science .org

Essential Nutrients for Plants - Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service (tamu.edu)

Texas Bluebonnets - Texas Pride | Archives | Aggie Horticulture (tamu.edu)

Horticulturist: Grow bluebonnets instead of picking them - AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

Jean Andrews, The Texas Bluebonnet (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1986).

Billie Lee Turner, The Legumes of Texas (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1959).

Lady Bird Johnson bluebonnet 'bluer than blue' - AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

<http://texassuperstar.com/>

Texas Bluebonnets - Texas Pride | Archives | Aggie Horticulture (tamu.edu)

Horticulturist: Grow bluebonnets instead of picking them - AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

Planting Bluebonnets (txdot.gov)