

# Skyblue lupine

(*Lupinus diffusus*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Skyblue lupine is a lovely herbaceous perennial that occurs primarily in dry flatwoods and blooms in spring. The range of this species previously included similar looking plants throughout peninsular Florida; however, research published in 2024 separated out four distinct species: *L. cumulicola*, *L. floridanus*, *L. ocalensis* and *L. pilosior*, all of which were previously included in the broader definition of *Lupinus diffusus*.



Photo by Mary Keim

Skyblue lupine flowers are born on dense spikes. They have a broad upper petal and two lower petals that are fused. Flowers are bluish to lavender, with a white spot on the upper petal. Leaves are elliptical to lanceolate, alternately arranged, and covered in many fine, silvery white hairs, giving them a metallic look. They are soft to the touch. Fruits are elongated, flattened pods that are also covered in fine, silvery white hairs.

Due to both a deep sensitive taproot and a reliance on symbiotic bacteria found in the soil of its natural habitat, Skyblue lupine is not easily cultivated. Even when seeds are successfully germinated, plants do not typically succeed in altered landscape environments.

**Family:** Fabaceae (Legume, bean or pea family)

**Native range:** Panhandle

*To see where natural populations of Skyblue lupine have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).*

**Lifespan:** Perennial

**Soil:** Well-drained sand

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Growth habit:** 2–3' tall and equally wide

Skyblue lupine plants are not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see them.



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