

Yellow Wild Indigo – *Baptisia tinctoria*



Photo: Richard Stromberg



Photo: Bert Harris



Photo: Lonnie Murray

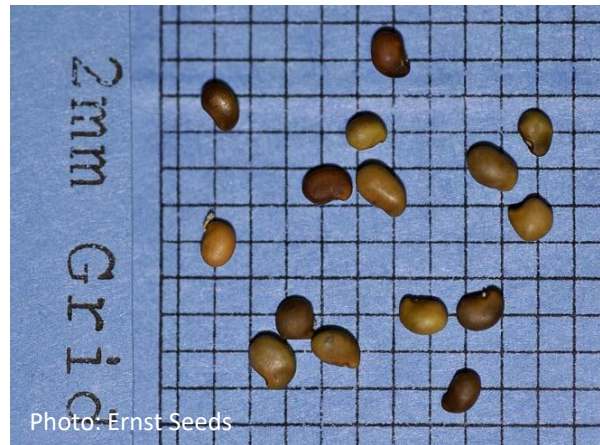


Photo: Ernst Seeds

Yellow Wild Indigo – *Baptisia tinctoria*

Habitat Notes:

Dry forests, woodlands, barrens, and roadsides, usually in sandy or rocky nutrient-poor soils.

Species Identification:

- Yellow flowers (May-June)
- Height 1-3 feet
- Leaves palmately 3-foliolate
- Leaflets 1-2.5cm long, 1-2.5 as long as wide. Petiolules, when present, up to 1mm long.
- Corolla 10-16mm long, racemes numerous.
- Legume 5-11mm diameter.
- Legume globose to ovoid, black and woody in texture.

Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade (6 hours of sunlight a day)
- Prefers sandy soil
- Prefers well drained soil

Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: Host plant, attracts bees and butterflies
- Skippers will feed on the foliage of this plant
- Long-lived nitrogen fixer that is drought tolerant
- Adapted to fire-prone landscapes

Growing Protocol:

- Seed stratification: C(10), H, I
 - 10 days of cold moist stratification in a refrigerator. Seeds require scarification of the coat prior to stratification
 - Recommend that the sowing medium is also mixed with a rhizobium inoculum. Genus specific inoculant can be purchased online.

Collection Information:

- Beaked seed pod
- Ready late summer
- Collect pods when dark and close to splitting.
- Can crush the pods to obtain seeds.
- If pods have opened, put inflorescences in a bag and the stem to ensure seeds fall inside the bag.

Pests & Disease:

- Plants will fail to thrive in excessively rich, loamy, moist, or ill-draining soils. No significant insect or disease problems.