

## PLANTING GUIDE

### LUPINUS ANGUSTIFOLIUS

#### Blue Lupine

Description: Blue lupine is an annual winter growing legume. It is an upright plant, 3 to 4 feet tall with side branches developed from the main stalk. The flowers are formed in spikes at the tips of the branches. The seed, formed in pods 1/2 inch wide and 3-4 inches long, are round and colored mottled gray, brown or white.

Conservation Use: Blue lupine is an excellent winter cover crop and temporary pasture.

Cultivars: Several have been released over the past thirty years. The two most recent developed by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA are 'Frost', a winter hardy disease-resistant variety and 'Tifblue-78', which added seed shatter resistance.

Site: Well drained soils.

Soil Preparation: Plow and/or disk the soil thoroughly followed by firm soil compaction while the soil is still moist.

Fertilization: Fertilize with 400 pounds per acre with 0-14-14, 0-10-20, or 4-10-20, or similar fertilizer at or prior to seeding.

Seeding Date: October 1 - November 15.

Seeding Rate: 60-80 pounds of seed per acre are required for broadcast seedings, 30-40 pounds of seed per acre for row planting. Inoculation is required regardless of planting method. Pack the soil firmly following seeding.

Seeding Depth: 1 inch cultipacked.



## Field Planting Guide

### Lupinus elegans, Armex Lupine

**Uses:** This legume has shown considerable promise at both the Arcadia and Brooksville Plant Materials Centers as a winter cover crop. It produces good to excellent ground cover in young irrigated citrus groves in the Central and Southern parts of SCS Area III and throughout SCS Area IV. It is an excellent producer of honey nectar.

**Description:** Individual plants grow to four feet in height and to three feet in width. Growth is from a central stem which branches frequently. The blooming period lasts for several weeks commencing about mid-January and continuing to late March. Overall seed production is good, but the amount available for harvest at any one period is rather limited as the seed pods shatter readily upon reaching maturity. The seed produced is small, hard, persists well in the soil and volunteers readily in the autumn months. No disease problems have been known to seriously affect this plant at either Arcadia or Brooksville. It is a bitter blue variety and is unpalatable to livestock.

**Soil Preparation:** Plow and/or disk the soil thoroughly followed by firm soil compaction while the soil is still moist.

**Fertilization:** Fertilize with 300 - 400 pounds per acre with 0-14-14, 0-10-20, or 4-10-20 at or prior to seeding.

**Seeding Rate:** 25 pounds of seed per acre are required for broadcast seedings. 12-15 pounds per acre should be used for row planting. Row planting results in more satisfactory inoculation and more rapid early growth. Inoculation is required regardless of planting method. Pack the soil firmly over either broadcast or row planted seed.

**Seeding Date:** - October 10-25.

**Irrigation:** This lupine can withstand moderate drought, but will grow considerably better if supplemental irrigation can be provided during droughty periods.

**Seed Harvest:** Seed harvesting occurs from mid-March to mid-April depending upon location, soil, weather and plant conditions. The seed is harvested while much of the plant is still green. The crop is mowed when the optimum amount of nearly mature seed is present, and is allowed to dry on the ground. When the leaves, pods and stalks are nearly dry the material is run through a conventional seed harvesting combine. More seed of this variety can be harvested by this method than by any other presently known method.