

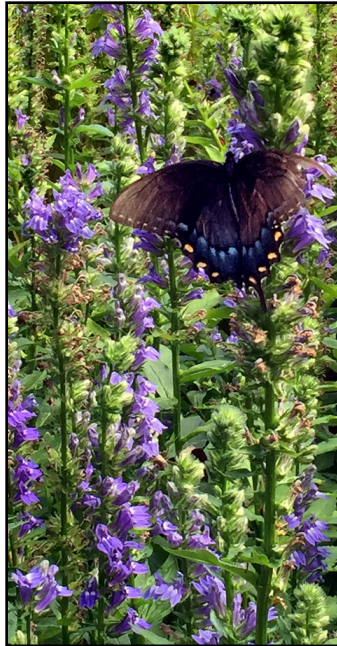

# Lobelia siphilitica

## Great Blue Lobelia

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

Great Blue Lobelia typically grows in moist to wet locations along streams, swamps, and meadows. It is common in the mountains of the Mid-Atlantic Region, frequent in the Piedmont, and infrequent to non-existent in the Coastal Plain. Lobelias can be impressive, especially en masse.



Perennial	Flowers En Masse, with Pollinator,* Close-up
Height: 1–5 feet	
Spread: 1–1½ feet	
Bloom Color: Blue, violet	
<b>Characteristics</b>	
Clump-forming perennial	 
Stiff, erect, unbranched leafy stems	
Serrated, lance-shaped, medium green leaves	
Light to dark blue, tubular two-lipped flowers (three lobes on lower lips, two on upper) on spike-like raceme bloom August to October	
May self-seed to form colonies	
<b>Attributes</b>	
Tolerates heavy shade and wet soil	
No serious pests (although slugs may eat leaves) or diseases; deer seldom severely damage	
Long bloom time	
Botanical name for its supposed efficacy in treating that disease	
Attracts mainly bumble and other long-tongued bees and sometimes butterflies and hummingbirds	
<b>Growing and Maintenance Tips</b>	<b>Excellent Replacement for</b>
Soil Requirements: Humus-rich	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> - Purple Loosestrife
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Lythrum virgatum</i> - European wand Loosestrife
Water Requirements: Moist, Wet	
Divide clumps by separating the basal offshoots from the mother plant in spring or fall as needed	
Use in perennial, native plant, and woodland gardens or near ponds and streams	*A worn, female eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly feeds. Her dark coloring mimics that of the poisonous pipevine swallowtail and is more common in the south of her range inhabited by pipevines. This deception may help protect her from bird predators.
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–9	

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Images by Elaine Mills, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and by Mary Free (bottom right), Sunny Garden



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