

# Great Blue Lobelia: *Lobelia siphilitica*



**Cultivation:** The preference is wet to moist soil and partial sun. Full sun is tolerated if the soil is consistently moist, and light shade is also acceptable. The soil should be fertile and loamy. This plant withstands occasional flooding, but becomes muddy and ragged-looking if it receives too much abuse. The small seeds require light to germinate.

**Plant Structure:** This native perennial plant is 1-4' tall. It is erect and usually remains unbranched. The central stem terminates in a long and slender raceme of blue-violet flowers. The blooming period occurs from late summer into fall, and lasts about 2 months. Sometimes plants produce white flowers, and other color variations are possible. The root system consists of a central taproot, from which occasional basal offshoots are produced. The seeds are quite small, and are probably distributed to some extent by wind or water.