

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Lupinus perennis

[Synonyms : *Lupinus diffusus*, *Lupinus gracilis*, *Lupinus nuttallii*]

WILD BEAN is a perennial. Native to eastern North America it has small, pea-like, blue (rarely white or pink) flowers.

It is also known as Blue bean, Blue lupine, Common lupine, Eastern lupine, *Gruslupin* (Swedish), Lupine, Monkey faces, Old maid's bonnets, Perennial lupin, Perennial lupine, Quaker bonnets, Sandflat sweet-pea, Sundial lupin, Sundial lupine, Wild lupin, Wild lupine, and Wild pea.

Warning – wild bean seeds are viewed as poisonous.

Perennis means 'perennial'.

Like *Lupinus* itself the name Lupine is derived from a Latin name for 'wolf' as farmers at one time believed that the plant degraded soil fertility ie. it 'stole' the soil and thus precluded the sowing of crops.

Authorities note that locally the seeds have been cooked like peas (*Pisum sativum*) for a vegetable.

For the North American Menominee Indian tribe at least the plant seems to have been of particular importance for horses. Not only was it valued as a medium of horse control if rubbed on the hands but also, if given as part of the feed, wild bean was deemed to be able to both fatten the animals and encourage liveliness.

On the other hand the Cherokee tribe viewed the plant as a source of human medicine that could stem vomiting and internal bleeding.

Controlled amounts of wild bean (before the seeds have ripened) have provided a wholesome fodder.