

## Bigleaf lupine

### *Lupinus polyphyllus*

#### Description

Lupines fix nitrogen, fertilizing poor soils.

#### Habit

Erect and spreading hairy herbaceous perennial;  
generally more than 30cm tall.

#### Leaves

Palmately compound leaf with 9-14 narrow,  
pointed, leaflets; 2-7 cm long, 5-14 cm wide;  
alternate, margin entire, leaflets hairy on both  
sides.

#### Stems

Erect or ascending; glabrous or hairy and usually  
unbranched.

#### Flowers

Blue to violet in color, pea-like, to 1.5 cm long,  
dense clusters to 40 cm long.



### **Fruits and Seeds**

Seed pod, 2.5-4 cm long, 4-12 mm wide, hairy, green to dark purplish-mottled when mature, 1 locular, straight, contains 3-10 seeds.

### **Habitat**

Native to North America. Grows well in moist to wet soils. Found in open habitats (streamside, wet meadows) and disturbed sites, at low to middle elevations.

### **Reproduction**

By seed.

### **Similar**

Sundial lupine or Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Cutting, mowing or digging for small infestations; effectively controlled by any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as clopyralid or glyphosate.

### **Credits**

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