

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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