Starlite Prairieblues™ False Indigo
*Baptisia × bicolor* ‘Starlite’ US PPAF, CA PBRAF, EEC PBRAF

Starlite Prairieblues™ is a long-lived, easy-to-grow hybrid *Baptisia* bred at the Chicago Botanic Garden. It produces an impressive springtime display of periwinkle-blue flowers.
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### Botanical Name
*Baptisia x bicolor* ‘Starlite’

### Common Name
Starlite Prairieblues™ false indigo

### Family
Fabaceae (Pea family)

### Origin
*Baptisia* is a genus consisting of approximately 20 species and natural hybrids of native North American perennials. Starlite Prairieblues™ is a selection from a controlled cross of *Baptisia (australis x bracteata)* made by Dr. Jim Ault of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois.

### Hardiness
U.S.D.A. Zones 4-9

### Bloom Season
This selection starts blooming in northern Illinois (U.S.D.A. Zone 5) in mid-May with a heavy flush in late May continuing into June.

### General Description and Habit
Starlite Prairieblues™ is a long-lived, easy-to-grow hybrid *Baptisia* that will produce an impressive floral display every spring. It is one of the earliest *Baptisia* selections to bloom at the Chicago Botanic Garden, usually showing color 7 to 10 days before *B. australis* and *Baptisia Twilite Prairieblues™*. Initially vase-shaped, Starlite Prairieblues™ becomes broad-rounded with age and has the appearance of a low, dense shrub. Its blue-green foliage remains clean and attractive all season.

### Size
Mature plants are broad-rounded and measure about 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide in 5 years.

### Growth Rate
A vigorous grower, it will reach mature size quickly for a *Baptisia*.

### Ornamental Characteristics
Vivid violet-lavender buds unfurl to periwinkle, lupinelike flowers with contrasting butter-cream keels. Starlite Prairieblues™ has oversized blossoms held on 24-inch-tall racemes that extend well beyond the foliage and arch gracefully outward as they age. The flowers are positioned closely to each other, creating a very dramatic display in the garden or as a cut flower. The clean, blue-green foliage creates a fantastic backdrop for other flowering plants all summer long. In the late season the inflated seedpods turn charcoal-black and make valuable additions to dried flower arrangements.

### Culture
This extremely low-maintenance perennial requires only to be cut back every winter. Starlite Prairieblues™ prefers well-drained dry to medium-wet soils with full sun. It has exceptional tolerance to poor soils and drought. These are long-lived plants that should not be disturbed once established.

### Pest and Disease Problems
None known.

### Landscape Value
This striking plant makes an excellent specimen but is also effective massed at the back of a perennial border. Makes an outstanding addition to a mixed border or grouped for a naturalistic effect in prairie or meadow settings.

### Propagation
Propagate by division, vegetative or root cuttings. Plants propagated from seed will not be true to type.