



**Douglass  
King Seeds**

# Texas Bluebonnets

**Best Time To Plant:**

Late Aug. - Nov.

**Garden Planting Rate:**

1-2 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

**Range Planting Rate:**

35 lbs. per acre

**Planting Depth:**

1/8-inch, rake and press

**Sunlight:**

Full Sun

**Soil Type:**

Well drained soil

**Height:**

1'-2' feet tall

**Germination Time:**

1 - 2 weeks for seedlings to emerge

**Regions:**

Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, & Florida

**Uses:**

Gardens/Landscaping

Roadside Beautification

Attract Pollinators

Erosion Control

Cover Crop

Bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) have been the Official Texas State Flower since 1901. Bluebonnets are members of the legume family and produce their own nitrogen and fertilize the soil (nitrogen-fixing).

When to plant: The best time to plant bluebonnets is in the fall, early enough to get some sprouting before the first frost. Then the plants will lie dormant over winter and resume growing in the early spring.

Reseeding: Bluebonnets will reseed and bloom again in subsequent years. Do not mow until the plants have blossomed and produced seed pods, which have dried and opened. All bluebonnets require full sun.



## 'Texas Maroon' Bluebonnets

'Texas Maroon' Bluebonnets are a special reddish variation of bluebonnets developed by Dr. Jerry M. Parsons, retired professor and Texas A&M Extension Horticulturist. This bluebonnet was developed after Carroll Abbott, founder of the Native Plant Society of Texas — also known as Mr. Bluebonnet for his efforts in conjunction with Lady Bird Johnson on advancing wildflower protection and planting — approached Dr. Jerry Parsons on an idea to plant the Texas State flag in red, white, and blue bluebonnets for Texas' Sesquicentennial in 1986.

## 'Purple Heart' Bluebonnets

'Purple Heart' bluebonnets are a special purple variation of bluebonnets developed by Dr. Jerry M. Parsons, retired professor and Texas A&M Extension Horticulturist. The original plant has taken over 30 years to develop. The 'Purple Heart' bluebonnet cannot tolerate poorly drained, clay based soils. Prefers a sloped area in light to gravelly, well-drained soil.

As with the cultivars previously developed, Dr. Parsons used recurrent phenotypic selection to develop 'Texas Maroon' variety.



**Caution!** Cross-pollination will occur in future generations.

To keep plants true to color, remove any plant that blooms in colors other than your variety as soon as possible. All three varieties are the same species, *Lupinus texensis*, but are special genetic selections of different colors.



To learn more, scan the QR code.



# Getting The Best Success From Your Seed

The key traits of a person who has a “green thumb” are patience and preparation. Patience is needed because all of your seed will not germinate at once. Preparation is needed to ensure that you plant your seed at the right depth and at the best time.

Seeds have limited energy. If planted too deep, the seeds will use up their energy before reaching the surface and die. However, if you plant too shallow the seed could dry out, blow away, or be eaten by birds.

## Planting Guidelines

- 1. Timing Is Everything!**—It’s very important to know when to plant. Seeds need adequate moisture and soil temperature to be within a certain in order to grow, and each species has different needs. Look for the recommended planting season on our brochures and on our products’ pages online: [www.dkseeds.com/products/](http://www.dkseeds.com/products/) and plan your planting around the recommended season for best results.
- 2. Know Your Region**—Plant the right seed for your region. The regions are listed on our brochures and online. If you don’t know what your region is, ask us!
- 3. Pick The Right Location**—Most seed needs about 8 hours of full sunlight. Pick a sunny location for your project.
- 4. Prepare The Seedbed**—Preparing the seedbed before you plant is very important. Try to remove all the other vegetation prior to planting by tilling or spraying an herbicide. The soil should be soft but not too loose. A good indicator is if your shoe leaves a print in the soil, but doesn’t sink in.
- 5. Planting Depth**—Pay attention to the recommended planting depth for each species. For most of DK Seeds’ species, a quarter-inch deep is all that is needed. You can find planting depth recommendations on the left column on all of our brochures and on our products’ pages online.
- 6. Know Your Seed Type**—Getting your seed spread in an even matter will help you ensure a successful planting. Seed spreaders can help, but only if you use the tool that works best with your type of seed. It is important to match your seed to your planter or your planter to your seed. If you need recommendations on the best tools to use, ask us!  
For small areas, like a garden, hand spreading will work.
- 7. Cover the seed in soil after spreading it. Don’t cover it too deep!**
- 8. After planting, compress the soil** to compact it around the seed, ensuring good seed-to-soil contact. We recommend using a sod roller, which is available to rent at some nurseries and home improvement stores.
- 9. If you can, water** during the establishment period. Continue to monitor the moisture levels of the soil closely for the next few weeks. In lieu of rainfall, water enough to keep the soil moist for the first few weeks. If you do not have access to water, try to plan your planting with the rain.

## Ask For Advice From The Pros!

If you have any questions, we are just a phone call away! But we are not the only ones with a wealth of knowledge. State and federal wildlife agents are invaluable sources of information and advice. There are County Extension Agents with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in each county that can also advise you on your project. Go to <https://counties.agrilife.org/> to see a list of agents by county.

*The best advice we can give is this: Do not cut corners— You can cut enough corners to ensure a failure!*

Use this ruler to help you gauge your planting depth. Fold the page in half to make more sturdy.

1”

3/4”

1/2”

1/4”