

Botanical Name: *Linum lewisii*

Common Name: Blue Flax, Lewis Flax, Prairie Flax



Family: Linaceae

Native Distribution: Alaska south to Baja California, Pacific coast east to the Mississippi River on slopes, mesas, and disturbed rocky soil

Plant Size: Up to 3' high, 2' wide with a long taproot

Flowers: 1" wide pale blue to deep sky blue flowers that open in the morning, flatten as the day passes, and drop the next day from April to November

Foliage: Delicate, waxy green, 3/4" long, one-veined leaves spirally arranged on 18" stems

Site Preferences: Full or reflected sun

Landscape Uses: Around Greater Phoenix, use in perennial gardens, rock gardens, xeriscapes, containers—can even seed in established lawns.

Other Stuff:

- Low to moderate water, sun to light shade, dry sandy soil.
- Use crushed leaves as a poultice for irritated eyes and boils.
- Mix with tobacco to improve condition of hair.
- Make thread from grassy stems (early Native Americans).
- Use as spring/winter forage for livestock and wildlife.
- Found in mixed grass, sagebrush, shadscale, piñon-juniper, mountain brush and aspen communities from 3,200 to 5,000 ft