

**Botanical Name:** *Plumbago auriculata* (also *Plumbago capensis*)

**Common Name:** Blue Plumbago, Cape Plumbago



**Family:** Plumbaginaceae

**Habitat:** N/A

**Native Distribution:** South Africa

**Elevation:** N/A

**Hardiness:** 25°F

**Type:** Evergreen

**Size:** 6' tall x 8' wide

**Shape:** Mounding

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Flowers:** 1" flowers resembling phlox

**Bloom Season:** March through November, but sometimes all year in warm locations

**Fruit:** N/A

**Foliage:** 1-2" medium green oblong leaves

**Exposure:** Full to part sun

**Shade:** Somewhat dense

**Water Requirements:** Low

***Plumbago auriculata* (Cape Plumbago) in Phoenix**

**xeriscapes:** Even though it's not a native plant, *Plumbago auriculata* grows really well in Phoenix xeriscapes. It works especially well on a north exposure but will appreciate a warm sunny location as well. Cape Plumbago works well against a fence or wall (make sure it doesn't get reflected heat) and can be used as a backdrop for other plants or as a filler plant. Low maintenance, very little litter.

**Wildlife:** Attracts birds and butterflies.

**More about *Plumbago auriculata* (Cape Plumbago):**

- *Plumbago auriculata* 'Royal Cape' and 'Imperial Blue' have light blue to sky blue flowers while 'Alba' is a white selection.
- Prune Cape Plumbago back to the ground in late winter/early spring to control growth.
- Cape Plumbago may suffer frost damage, but will come back after pruning out damaged areas.
- *Plumbago auriculata* can also be trained as a vine.
- Cape Plumbago requires very little water once established, but it must have good drainage.
- Can be susceptible to iron chlorosis which causes new growth to yellow from leaf margins inward.