



# Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

**Common Name:** Big-leaf lupine,  
Wyeth's lupine

**Scientific Name:** *Lupinus polyphyllus*  
*aka. Lupinus wyethii*

**Plant Family:** Fabaceae

### Identifying Characteristics:

**Size:** Big-leaf lupine is a perennial forb, which is invasive in some locations when it escapes from gardens. It grows to 1.25 to 2.5 m (4 to 8 ft) in height.

**Leaves:** Palmately compound leaves, 11-17 oblong leaflets.

**Flowers:** Spike of purple to blue, asymmetrical flowers. Some ornamentals may be pink or magenta.

**Habitat:** Well-lit places on sandy-loamy soil

**Bloom time:** June-July



Photograph by Gary A. Monroe @  
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

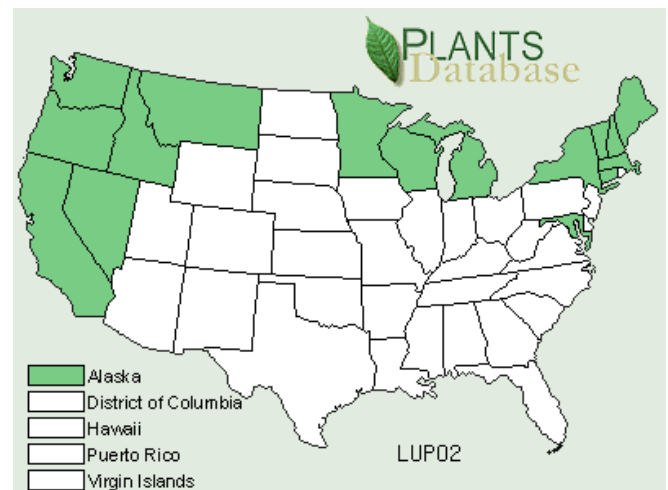
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Photograph by Emmet Jurdzewicz, Wisconsin State  
Herbarium WISflora (www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora)

**Phenological observation:**  
First Flower

**Distribution Area:**



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)

**Did you know?** The genus name, *Lupinus*, comes from the Latin word for wolf, since it was believed that lupines 'wolfed' nutrients from the soil, preventing other plants from growing near it. In fact, lupines are able to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere, so that they are able to thrive in nutrient-poor soils where few other plants survive.