

Amorpha canescens

Leadplant

Height: 2 to 3 ft.

Spread: 2 to 2.5 ft.

Sun: Full sun. Will tolerate dappled shade but may sprawl in the direction of greater lighter

Soil Moisture: Mesic to Dry

Soil Types: Sand, Loam, Clay. Well-drained soil.

Bloom Time: Early to mid-summer

Bloom Description: Showy slender 4-8" spikes of numerous tiny flowers are purple to dark blue with prominent orange-yellow anthers.

Leaves: Grayish green soft leaflets and densely hairy twigs

Uses: Lead plant pops as a single specimen among shorter grasses, like prairie dropseed, but a mass planting is stunning from a distance. The foliage provides a nice contrast in the garden, due not only to the silvery color but also to the relatively small leaf size. Erosion control due to its deep branching woody roots.

Wildlife:

Nectar: Native bees

Larval Host: Dogface Sulfur

Pollinators: Long-tongues and short-tongued bees, bumblebees and the Andrenid bee, a specialist pollinator of *Amorpha species*.

Comments: This shrub fixes nitrogen. The tough roots made pioneer plowing difficult, causing early settlers to dub it "Devil's Shoestrings." Leadplant is extremely drought tolerant. The presence of Leadplant is a sign of high quality habitat.

