

Lupinus polyphyllus

Invasive to Maine

Lupine
Bigleaf Lupine

Upland
Road sides, Waters edge, Developed Areas

Leaves



Flickr user Vilskogen



Look for leaves that are alternate and compound-palmate with 9 to 17 lance-shaped leaflets that are 3-15 cm long. The leaves are smooth on top and hairy on bottom.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 LANCE-SHAPED	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



Wiki Commons user Syp



Lupine is a herbaceous (nonwoody), perennial (living three or more years) plant. The flowers grow on 1.5 m tall spikes and are usually blue to purple in the wild.

Stem



Flickr user Flominator



Look for stems that are unbranched, stout, and hollow. Lupine stems are usually smooth.

Seasonal Change



Flickr user jerryoldnettel



Lupine blooms in May and June. The seeds of the plant are in hairy pods that mature in late summer. The seeds spread when the pods open explosively.

Similar Species

The Delphinium family looks similar to Lupine (both have flowering stalks). Look closely at the leaves. Delphinium leaves are lobed and Lupine leaves are compound-palmate. The leaf shapes are similar, but Lupine leaves are divided into leaflets and Delphinium leaves are not.

Fun Fact

Lupine is typically a bitter-tasting weed. Some cultivated varieties of Lupine have been bred to be sweeter for use as a food crop for animals.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



Gulf of Maine
Research Institute



www.vitalsignsme.org