



False Lupine

Thermopsis montana

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Mountain Thermopsis

Ornamental Features

False Lupine has masses of beautiful spikes of lemon yellow pea-like flowers rising above the foliage in late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its oval compound leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

False Lupine is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

False Lupine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



False Lupine in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



False Lupine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

False Lupine will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for sandy, alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.