

## **BLUE STAR**

*Amsonia tabernaemontana*

**AKA Eastern Blue Star, Blue Dogbane**

**Description:** Herbaceous perennial usually grows in a clump with numerous stems and a few branches. The leaves are alternate, smooth to slightly downy texture and can reach 6 inches in length. The flowers have five regular parts and are light blue lance-shaped to narrowly egg-shaped clustered stems. Blooms first appear in mid spring and continue into late spring. The buds and backs of the petals are covered with downy hairs. Fruit consists of a pair of slender pods.

**Natural Habitat:** Moist woods and banks

**Size:** 35" tall

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Light:** Full sun to part shade

**Planting and Care:** Easily grown in average, medium wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, loamy soils. Good drought tolerance. When grown in too much shade, plants tend to become more open and floppy. Although cutting back to 6-8" after bloom is recommended in order to help maintain neatness and increase foliage density, such trimming is usually not needed in the case of this compact plant.

**Ornamental Value:** Showy blue flowers. Some are known for their flashy fall foliage.

**Landscape Usage:** Borders or rock gardens. Best when massed.

**As suggested by the common name, this species is apparently poisonous to dogs, as most members of this family are poisonous.**