

***Baptisia lactea* (Raf.) Thieret**
Prairie False Indigo



Family: Fabaceae

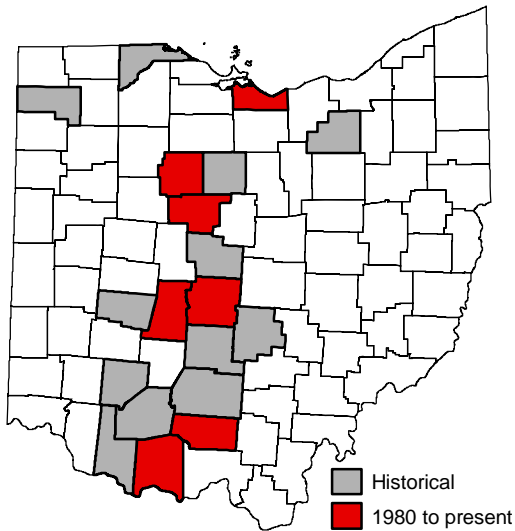
Synonyms: *Baptisia leucantha* T. & G., *Baptisia alba* (L.) Vent.

Description: Perennial herb to 1.5 m from thick horizontal root system. Usually much branched bearing conspicuous bunches of white flowers (sometimes with a tinge of purple) at the end of the main stem and lateral branches. Oblong, black seedpods to 4 cm long, narrowed to a short beak, on a stipe 8-12 mm long.

Flowering: May to July

Fruiting: July to September

Similar Species: This is the only Ohio *Baptisia* with white flowers. The other Ohio species of this genus have yellow or blue flowers.



Total Range: USA: AL, AR, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NE, NY, OH, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WI; **CAN:** ON.

Ohio Range: Adams, Brown, Clark, Clinton, Crawford, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Franklin, Highland, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Medina, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Wyandot.

Ohio Status: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Habitats: Prairies, barrens, other open habitats.

Threats: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

Conservation Potential: Probably excellent due to its variety of habitat and tolerance of disturbance. Steyermark (1963) states that it is easily grown from seed.

Inventory Guidelines: Mature flowering material is recommended for positive identification. Pictures are suitable for identification. Record the number of flowering/fruited plants.

Comments: Deam (1940) states that this plant is infrequent in its habitat throughout Indiana and that usually only a few plants are found at a place.

A hybrid of this species with the frequent, yellow-flowered *Baptisia tinctoria* has been reported from Indiana (Larisey, 1940). This hybrid should be sought in northwestern Ohio.

Most current localities are located in Adams County. It should be sought throughout the western half of Ohio.

Selected References:

Deam, C.C. 1940. Authorized reprint 1970. Flora of Indiana. Verlag Von J. Cramer, S-H Service Agency, New York, NY. 1236 p.

Gleason, H.A. 1978. The new Britton and Brown illustrated flora of the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Volume 2. Hafner Press, New York. Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1728 p.

Kartesz, J.T. and R. Kartesz. 1980. A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 498 p.

Larisey, M.M. 1940. A monograph of the genus *Baptisia*. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 27: 119-218.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1728 p.



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