



Photo credit: Susan Strine

Common Names:
Bluestar, Eastern
Bluestar, Blue Dogbane

Plant Type: Perennial

Light Requirements:
Full Sun – Part Shade

Height: 2-3 ft

Bloom Time: mid-
Spring

Hardiness Zones: 3-9

Amsonia tabernaemontana

Amsonia tabernaemontana is a clump-forming herbaceous perennial that is native to the eastern United States. Bright green oblong leaves grow on long stalks that end in clusters of small blue flowers. Bloom time is generally mid-spring. Best grown in full sun. Leaves turn bright yellow in fall.

Plants grow rather wide as they reach their maturity, so be mindful of this when choosing a location. If you prefer a more upright habit, trim the stems back by about 6 inches after flowering. Trimming will also prevent the production of seedpods. *Amsonia* will self-seed, but seedlings are easily pulled if this is not desirable.

Amsonia belongs to the plant family Apocynaceae (dogbane family) which also includes milkweed. The stems can weep a milky sap when cut, which can be irritating to the skin. *Amsonia* is generally considered deer and rabbit resistant due to the toxicity of the sap. *Amsonia* flowers may attract long-tongued pollinators such as carpenter bees, hummingbird moths, and butterflies.

Resources

<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/blue-in-the-sun>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/amsonia-blue-ice/>