Alternate names
Also known as Baptisia virdis Larisey.

Uses
This plant can be used for native landscaping and dried flowers.

Description
Yellow wild indigo is a native, perennial warm season forb. It is a member of the Fabaceae (pea) family. The erect plant grows to 2 to 3 feet tall. The plant begins growth in the spring. It produces small, yellow flowers (up to ½” long) which sit atop yellowish-green flower stems and has bluish-green foliage. The plant blooms from May-June. The yellow flowers develop into round, brown seed pods (to ¾” diameter). The seeds mature within the pods and are harvested in late summer. Yellow wild indigo will cross with other Baptisia species.

Adaptation
The range of adaptation for this plant is Texas east to Mississippi and north to Missouri. It prefers well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. The plant tolerates drought and poor soils.

Establishment
Freshly harvested indigo seeds germinate well. Late summer, early fall plantings may have better success than spring plantings. If seeds are planted in spring, stratification or scarification will be needed. Indigo can also be propagated by stem cuttings. Take stem cuttings early in the spring when stems are soft.

Management
Yellow wild indigo is a low maintenance plant. After the plants bloom, they tend to spread open and lose their compact appearance. Trimming foliage after planting helps maintain a rounded, compact form.
Pests and Potential Problems
Generally, yellow indigo has no serious insect or disease problems. However, at the East Texas Plant Materials Center, caterpillars have been noted eating plant foliage on a regular basis.

Availability
Yellow indigo hybrids are beginning to enter the native plant market. Check with your local nursery for availability.

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References
Hatch, S.L., K.N. Gandhi, L.E. Brown 1990. Checklist of the vascular plants of Texas- MP-1655. Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station.


For more information about this and other conservation plants, please contact your local NRCS Field Office or Conservation District, or visit Plant Materials Program website at http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov and the PLANTS website at http://plants.usda.gov.

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