



Plumbago

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Class of 2018

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Family: Plumbaginaceae
Genus: *Plumbago*
Species: *Plumbago auriculata*
Common Name: Blue Cape Plumbago



Plumbago is derived from the latin *plumbum*, which means lead. It is believed that at one time the plant was used as a cure for lead poisoning.

It is a native of South Africa.

It has bright green foliage and sky blue, light blue or white phlox-like flowers.

It will bloom up to 9 months of the year if in full sun.

It can grow 6-10 feet tall and 8-10 feet wide.

The plant attracts butterflies and birds and is also a repellent to deer.



Plumbago is a fast growing, drought tolerant perennial shrub. It can be pruned, or not, for many uses.

It can be left wild to cover a bank and can act as erosion control.



It can be kept pruned as a potted patio plant.

It can made into a hedge or border.



It can be trained on a trellis.



And it will happily climb up a fence.



- Once established, these plants have no diseases or pests to speak of.
- It does like a slow release fertilizer and will show its' appreciation with a profusion of blooms.
- It is drought tolerant once it is established, and does require extra water in extreme heat.
- It adapts quite easily to a variety of soils, but prefers if it is well-drained.
- It does best in a temperate climate, but can survive a light frost.
- It can be propagated by cuttings, by root division of older plants, and by seeds.