

Lead Plant

(Amorpha canescens)

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Young lead plant stems are light green with very fine white hairs. The more sunlight it gets, the more white hairs it can get, to the point where it will appear dusty. Purple flowers with bright yellow anthers are arranged on a two to six inch long spike. The taproot can reach 15 feet or more into the soil. Lead plant is quickly eaten by deer, rabbits, and livestock due to its high protein content making it a difficult plant to establish. The presence of Lead plant indicates that the prairie is well maintained.

Lead Plant Quick Facts:

- Classification: Shrub
 - Life Cycle: Perennial
 - Flower Color: Purple
 - Bloom Time: June-August
- ◆ Lead plant was nicknamed “Devil’s Shoestrings” by early pioneers because of its deep and sturdy roots that made plowing difficult.
 - ◆ The common name Lead Plant comes from the fine white hairs giving the appearance of lead dust.
 - ◆ It was once thought to grow where lead ore was underground.

