

Amorpha canescens

Sioux: Ziŋtkála Tǎčháŋ (Bird's Bush),

Leadplant

H: 3'-4'

W: 3'-4'

Light: Full Sun

Water use: Low-Very low

Temperature: -45F

Foliage: Silvery green

Flower: Purple

Soil: Well drained, sandy or rocky

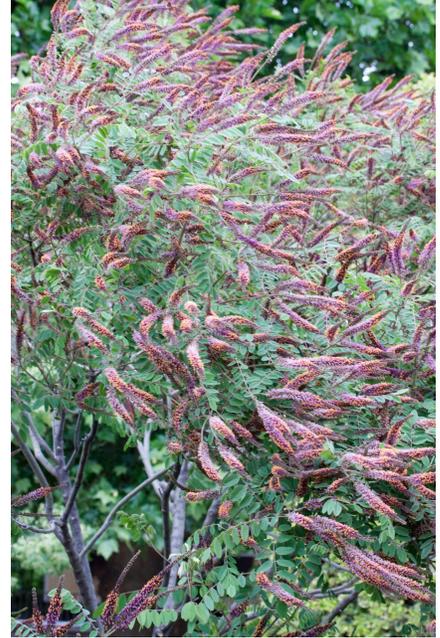


Photo credit: [Denis.prévôt, CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Description:

Small to medium sized shrub from the Great Plains where it grows on dry prairies and rocky bluffs. It's native range extends from Saskatchewan to Texas, indicating its ability to withstand hot summers as well as winter temperatures to below -40F.

It was once thought this plant indicated the presence of lead in soils, hence the common name leadplant. *Amorpha canescens* is often one of the last plants to come out of dormancy in the spring, but puts on delicate grayish green leaves once it wakes up. Its silvery leaves are a foil to it's show stopping purple flower spikes that bloom in mid to late summer.

Leadplant has evolved to survive on little water by growing a long taproot that reaches far beneath the surface to collect water during prolonged drought making this an ideal choice for low-water landscapes.

More Information:

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

[Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

[Plantlust](#)