Help spread flowers that are native to the North Eastern United States! Whether you plant them in your garden or in a field, along the road or in a pot on your balcony, you will be doing Mother Nature a favor. **Great Blue Lobelia** is very attractive to hummingbirds, bees and butterflies that are native to our area and feed on the nectar.

If you choose to sow these seeds in the wild, try to follow the instructions to some degree to enhance the chances that the seeds will take.

Contents: Great Blue Lobelia Seeds
(Lobelia Siphilitica)
Sow outdoors in fall before frost,
or in early spring.
Average Germ Time: a few weeks
Depth: Sow seed on surface in rich, moist soil. Do not cover; needs light to germinate. Keep soil moist.
Plant Spacing: 24 inches
Loves full sun with some shade.
Moist soil, but tolerates dry conditions.
Blooms: July-October.
Height: 1-3'.
Spacing: 8" - 12".
Will self sow once established.

Great Blue Lobelia

Great Blue Lobelia's spikes of brilliant true blue flowers in late summer and early fall attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees to your garden. This wetland native brings outstanding color for the border, wet meadow or pond edge. It flourishes in moist soil with filtered shade but will adapt to drier conditions with more shade. It is easy to grow from seed and frequently self-sows. Its natural habitat is meadows, moist thickets and swamps from Maine to Manitoba and Colorado, south to North Carolina and Texas. Early medical writers thought American Indians used the root primarily to treat syphilis, hence the species name *siphilitica*. While potentially poisonous, Native Americans did use the root tea for syphilis, and leaf tea for a number of illnesses, such as colds, worms, nosebleeds, coughs and headaches. All parts are toxic only if eaten in large quantities.

Great Blue Lobelia is a wetland native species, requiring wet to moist soil, fertile and loamy. The plant requires little maintenance, growing in part shade. In full sun the soil must be consistently moist. This clump-forming perennial blooms July through October, and can be divided in the spring. Also known as Blue Cardinal Flower, this plant tolerates drier conditions than the red species. The seed capsules can be collected in autumn, usually October. The stalks are cut below the capsules, and placed upside down in a paper sack. Once, home, the bag is opened so that the capsules can dry for a few days. Shake the bag to release the seeds. The capsules that have remaining seeds can be retrieved and crushed with a rolling pin and seeds picked from the litter. The seeds can then be planted right away. The seeds will germinate without cold stratification, but they need light, so don't cover them.