

Arkansas Diamonds Plants

(Amsonia hubrichtii)

Anthony Bowden
Assistant Professor -
Ornamentals Specialist

General Information

Arkansas Bluestar

Scientific Name: *Amsonia hubrichtii*

Pronunciation: am-SO-nee-uh
hew-BRIK-tee-eye

Common Name: Arkansas
amsonia, Blue Star, Hubricht's
amsonia

Family: *Apocynaceae*

Plant Type: deciduous
herbaceous perennial

Uses: accent; border; mass
plantings; small groups; specimen

USDA hardiness zones: 5A
through 8B

Origin: Native to the Ouachita
Mountains in Central Arkansas
and Oklahoma

Availability: uncommon;
can be found in the trade

Description

Height: 24-36" tall

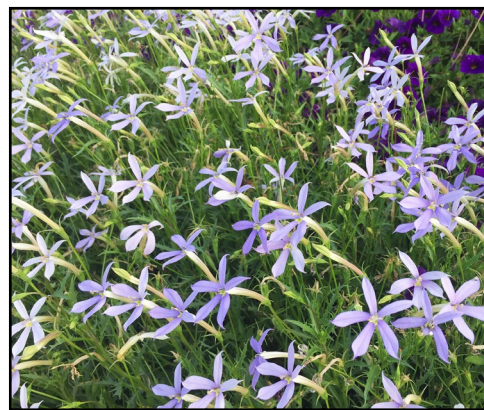
Spread: 24-36" wide

Plant Habit/Form: Clumping;
Erect

Growth Rate: Slow

Texture: Fine

Figure 1. Arkansas Blue Star.



Flowers

Color: Blue to white

Flower Value to Gardener:
Showy; pollinator attractant

Bloom Time: Spring

Shape: Star

Petals: 4-5 petals/ray

Size: <1 inch

Description: Terminal clusters
of ½ inch blue star-shaped
flowers occurring in spring

Leaves

Color: Green in Spring; transi-
tion to a golden/yellow color in
the Fall

Feel: Soft

Shape: Simple

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Length: 1-3 inches

Description: 1-3 inch long simple leaves on an alternate arrangement that are entire, linear to oblong in shape; turn to a beautiful golden fall color when grown in full sun.

Culture

Light Requirement: Full Sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)

Partial shade (Direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours)

Soil Tolerances: Tolerant of wide variety of soils

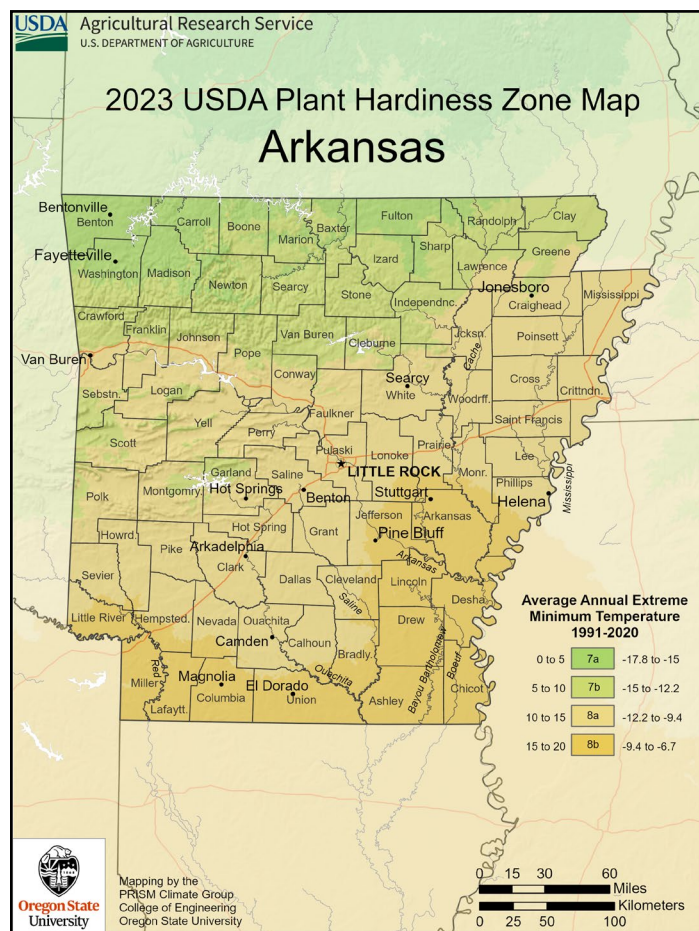
Drought Tolerance: moderate

Plant Spacing: 12-36 inches

Use and Management

Uncommon in the wider trade, this plant is more frequently seen in native plant sales and arboretum. A native to the Ouachita Mountains located in central Arkansas and Oklahoma, it was discovered in the early 1940s by Leslie Hubricht. A relatively slow grower, it may take one to two years for this plant to reach its peak potential. The erect growth habit and feathery green foliage make for an excellent backdrop for lower growing landscape plants. It was named as the perennial of the year in 2011 by the Perennial Plant Association.

Figure 2: USDA Hardiness zones represented in Arkansas.



This plant suffers no serious insect or disease problems. When grown in too much shade, plants can flop over, so they may need to be pruned back after flowering; however, use caution when pruning as the milky white sap can cause skin irritation.

