

DELPHINIUM (LARKSPUR)Natural order (*Ranunculaceae*)

The Larkspurs are a well known species, some of them are annuals, but the perennial ones are the most showy and brilliant, they will give flowers well into the autumn if the early ones are cut before going to seed, they are very hardy, and will grow in any common garden soil although the richer it is, the brighter will be the color. Variety *chinense* varies in color, from the most intense dark blue, through all the shades to white; the intensity of color in the darker shades makes it most effective either in the border or for cutting.

Var. *elatum* a native of Siberia has spikes of the brightest blue flowers. There are also some beautiful "hybrid" hardy Larkspurs, of which *Barlowii* dark blue shaded with red; *Belladonna*: sky blue, and *Bicolor grandiflora*; deep blue with white eye are the best. Delphiniums are of easy culture and no garden should be without them.

A singular fact is noticeable in the Larkspurs; it is well known that bright blue and bright yellow seldom exist in the same species but in the Chinese Larkspur we have the most intense blue, and in another Asiatic variety, with a terribly "cracjaw" name: *Persewalskianum*, yellow blossoms.



Delphinium elatum.

GOOD ADVICE

Plan before planting
Consider before cutting.

FACTS.

In the beginning of the eighteenth Century there was not 1000 exotic plants known in England, before its end more than 5000 had been introduced, and now there is no known country from which exotics have not been brought.

The sexual organs of plants were discovered and classified by Linnacus in 1735, and it has proved to be the most important discovery in horticultural science, because it has rendered artificial crossing of varieties, so as to improve them, easy.

The Scotch had a Botanical Garden as early as A. D. 1680.

The Irish had a "Gardener's Club" in the reign of George 1st.

Gray said in 1763, that the Englishman's skill in Landscape gardening was the only taste he could lay claim to as original.