

Scientific name: *Gentiana asclepiadea*

Family: Gentianaceae

Common name: Willow Gentian

Native Habitat: Mountains of Europe, N & S Turkey, and Northern Iran.

Hardiness zone: Zones 5-9

Exposure: Light shade; preferably an open position with a high canopy of trees.

Form: Clump-forming, herbaceous perennial.

Soil Requirements: Prefers well-drained, humus rich soil that stays evenly moist. This plant will not tolerate drying out.

Growth Rate: Medium

Height: Arching stems to over 24 inches in length and up to 30 inches in width.

Leaf: Leaves are 2 to 3 inches long, ovate-lanceolate with an acuminate tip. They are medium-green in colour with prominent parallel veins, and clasp the stem in pairs or whorls of 3.

Flower: Starting in mid to late summer, the gentian blue, trumpet-shaped flowers begin to bloom and are located all along the leaf axils.

In midsummer as our Woodland Garden begins to wind down in colour, *Gentiana asclepiadea* just begins to light up. At Stonecrop we have several colour forms - shades of blue, a white form, and a pink form. Owing to its cascading habit, *Gentiana asclepiadea* is best planted on a higher plane or slope or draping over a rock, to afford a better view of the flowers which would otherwise be hidden if growing on level ground.

Gentiana asclepiadea can be grown from seed which is offered in our Index Seminum every year.

