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.