



Amorpha fruticosa

False Indigo



Genus from Greek *amorphos* meaning shapeless or deformed in reference to the corolla (lacking wings and a keel).



Specific epithet from
Latin *frutex* meaning
shrub in reference to its
shrubby form.



2/22/2023





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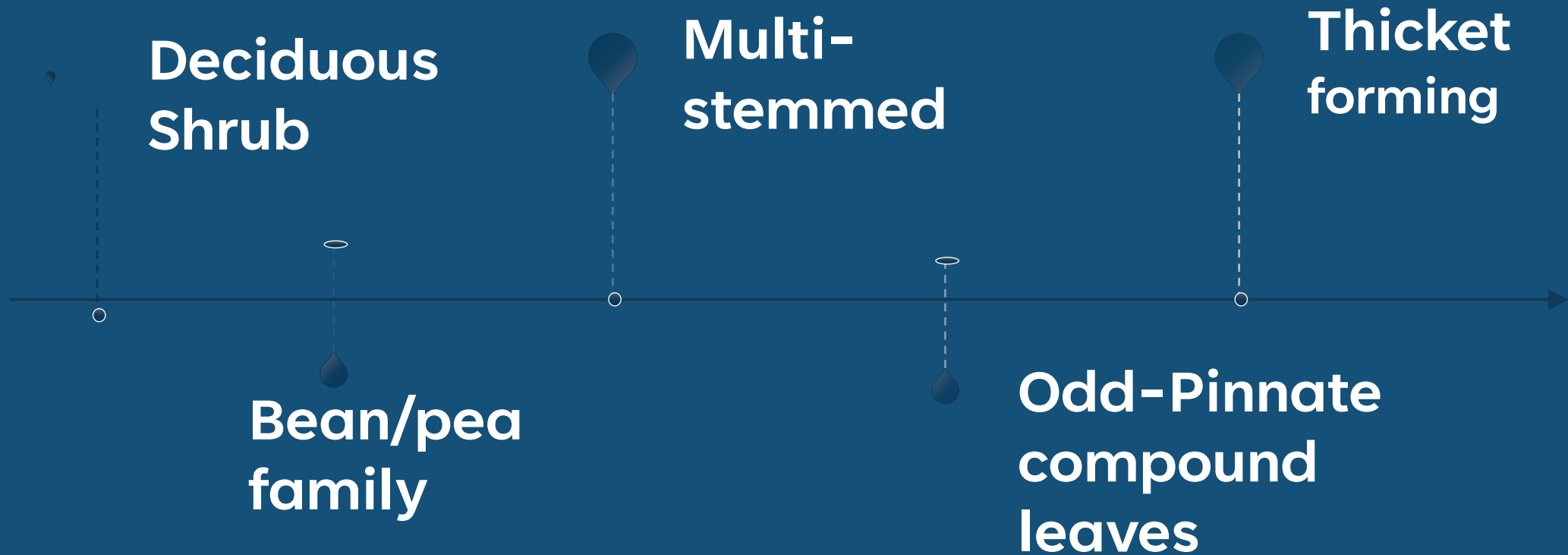


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About



About

6 to 10
feet tall

Racemes of
purple
flowers

Larval
butterfly
host

Sun to part
shade

Pollinated by
native bees

About



**Contains indigo pigment
but in very small
quantities – common
name of False Indigo**



Similar to but much larger than *Amorpha canescens* (lead plant).



Of interest

Good for:

Erosion control

Windbreaks

Screens

Naturalized areas

Poor soils

Tolerant of occasional flooding

Tolerant of dry soils

Self-seeding and/or suckering

Considered weedy/invasive in some areas.

Prune in late winter to improve form



Features

Compound, odd-pinnate leaves (each to 12" long). Each leaf contains 11 to 35 spiny-tipped, oval to elliptic, dull gray-green leaflets (to 2" long) with glandular dots and toothless margins.

Tubular scented flowers (each to 3/8" long) bloom in May-June in dense, spike-shaped clusters (racemes) to 8" long. Each flower has a single-petaled purple corolla and 10 protruding stamens with showy orange-yellow anthers.



Features

Flowers are followed by fruits in small, resinous-dotted, 1-2 seeded pods (to 1/2" long) which mature in July and August.

Native to moist open woodland areas, floodplains, stream banks and swamp margins from central to eastern Canada south throughout much of the U. S. into northern Mexico.



Youtube Video





Thank you