

Larkspur (*Consolida ambigua*)



Larkspur are awesome spring blooming flowers with long flower spikes, like blue-bonnets or snapdragons. They grow on tall upright stems with leaves that look like Dill. The predominant colors are pink, white and lavender. They fill in nicely for a perennial bed that is still emerging from winter die-back. We use them in our perennial beds out front for this reason. Their awesome month of bloom is April. Although Larkspur are annuals, they act like perennials since they re-seed themselves so easily year after year. Simply shake the old bloomed out seeded plants around a weedy yard or perennial bed any time of year, or remove the little black seeds from the seed pods and then spread them; and thousands of plants will emerge next winter like other wild-flower seeds. One four-inch pot of Larkspur from the nursery may produce 100 babies next spring. They are much easier to grow from seeds than Bluebonnets. If fall rains do not come, keep the area where you spread the seed moist for a couple of weeks until you see the little plants begin to grow. Like other wild flowers, they do not prefer to stay wet all the time but do need abundant moisture to germinate in

fall or winter. After germination, water the seeded area once every two weeks if it does not rain but leave the area unwatered if winter and early spring rains do come. A native Larkspur grows along Bandera road but this variety is from the Mediterranean and west and central Asia.