

Seed Share

at Main Library in Hillsborough



OrangeCountyLibrary.org

Main Library at 137 West Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278



Purple False Foxglove

Agalinis purpurea

ag-uh-LY-nus pur-PUR-ee-uh



NC native annual



full sun to
part shade



sow in early spring
after danger of frost



likes acidic to neutral,
moist but well-drained
soil; requires consistent
moisture



blooms in late
summer to fall



late-season nectar source
for pollinators

Growing Instructions

Overwinter seeds or cold stratify them for 30-90 days and sow in early spring after the last frost. Sow seeds on the surface of the soil and very lightly cover. Water gently but thoroughly after sowing. This annual is adaptable and self-sowing. It is partially parasitic on the roots of other plants and does best when intermixed with other species. Best for a meadow or wetland garden.

Garden like it's 1776!

A little colonial plant lore for the nation's 250th birth year

Botanical Illustration, 1899 by Constance Stampell

False foxgloves, *Agalinis*, are commonly named as such to mark the resemblance of their flowers to true foxgloves *Digitalis*, as well as the differences between the two genera of plants. While purple foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) was widely used historically as medicine for heart conditions, it was also recognized to be highly toxic to pets, horses, and children. Alternatively, purple false foxglove (*Agalinis purpurea*) which has a similar coloring and bloom time is nontoxic and thus a safer garden alternative. While it was historically used to cure digestive issues like diarrhea, colonial settlers adopted it more for ornamental beauty than medicine.

