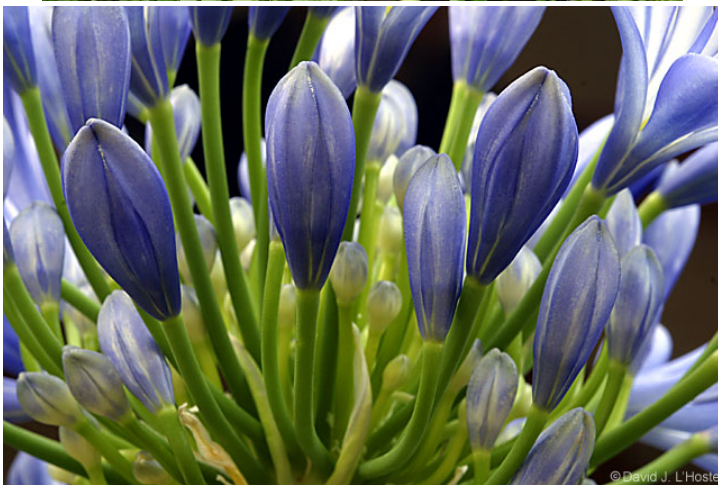




Blue Lily of the Nile *Agapanthus africanus blue*

03-02A



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 6-9, 12-24, H1, H2	Full sun or partial shade	Best in loamy soil but will grow in heavy soil	Little to regular watering	Blossoms are deep blue 20-30 per cluster	1 ½ feet

Agapanthus are one of South Africa's best known garden plants and are grown in most countries in the world. Their strap-like leaves and striking blue or white flowers make them favourites in plant borders as well as in containers. They are all easy to grow except for *A. africanus* and *A. walshii* which a recent publication (Zonneveld & Duncan 2003) has proposed is a subspecies of *A. africanus*.

Agapanthus africanus was the first *Agapanthus* species collected in South Africa and was described in 1679 by the name *Hyacinthus Africanus tuberosus, flore caeruleo umbellato*. Plants were grown in conservatories and flowered in Europe in the late seventeenth century. Sometimes *Agapanthus africanus* is still referred to as *Agapanthus umbellatus* and many laypersons as well as nurserymen confuse *Agapanthus africanus* with *Agapanthus praecox*, which is a popular, easily grown species. Any *Agapanthus* referred to as 'africanus' in the nursery trade is almost certainly *Agapanthus praecox*. Hybrid Peter Pan & Queen are also carried.