



**Blue Nolina**  
*Nolina nelsonii*

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Other Names: Nelson's Blue Beargrass, Bear Grass

**Description:**

A large, slow growing succulent tree-like shrub with silver-blue, sword-like leaves radiating from the center; mature rosettes produce a stalk of white flowers in spring then die, being replaced by offsets; use as a focal accent

**Ornamental Features**

Blue Nolina features bold spikes of fragrant white bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late spring. It has attractive silvery blue evergreen foliage which emerges grayish green in spring. The sword-like leaves are highly ornamental and remain silvery blue throughout the winter. The rough bark and brown branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

**Landscape Attributes**

Blue Nolina is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blue Nolina is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Blue Nolina*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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## **Planting & Growing**

Blue Nolina will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Blue Nolina makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.