

# *Phacelia tanacetifolia*

**Common Name(s):** Bee Phacelia Blue

Tansy Facelia Fiddleneck Lacy Phacelia Lacy Scorpion-Weed Tansy  
Phacelia

**Previously known as:** *Phacelia commixta**Phacelia tripinnata*

## Phonetic Spelling

fa-SEE-lee-uh tan-uh-see-tee-FOH-lee-uh

## Description

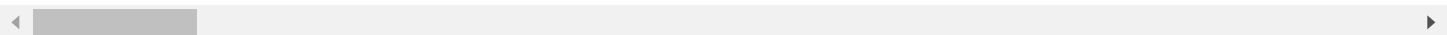
An annual widely used in Europe and gaining traction in the US with feathery leaves and fiddle-head clusters of purple blooms that make it very attractive to pollinators. It is often used in the seed mix of a cover crop. It propagates easily from seed, just sow directly on top of the soil after the last frost. Scratching the seed coat and soaking overnight can improve germination rates. Because it does self-seeds so easily it can become weedy in certain areas. However, its beneficial characteristics of being an attractive pollinator plant often outway its weedy tendencies as it is easy to till back into the soil adding nitrogen. It has a taproot and dense fibrous roots as well. It is drought tolerant, prefers full sun and withstands sandy or rocky soil. It will suffer in waterlogged conditions. It is winter hardy to 18 degrees F.



Bumble bee sipping nectar from a flower.

Kathleen Moore

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### Cultivars / Varieties:

#### Attributes:

**Genus:**

Phacelia

**Species:**

tanacetifolia

**Family:**

Boraginaceae

**Life Cycle:**

Annual

**Recommended Propagation Strategy:**

#### Seed

**Country Or Region Of Origin:**

California to Mexico

**Wildlife Value:**

Flowers attract bees and other pollinators. It provides high-quality nectar and pollen. It also supports beneficial predators and parasitoids.

**Dimensions:**

Height: 1 ft. 0 in. - 3 ft. 0 in.

Width: 1 ft. 0 in. - 3 ft. 0 in.

Whole Plant Traits:

**Plant Type:**

Annual

**Habit/Form:**

Erect

**Growth Rate:**

Rapid

**Maintenance:**

Medium

**Texture:**

Fine

Cultural Conditions:

**Light:**

Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)

**Soil Texture:**

Sand

Shallow Rocky

**Available Space To Plant:**

12 inches-3 feet

Fruit:

**Fruit Description:**

Two brown wrinkled seeds are produced in the ovoid fruit. Seeds drop to the ground when the fruit is mature.

Flowers:

**Flower Color:**

Blue

Purple/Lavender

**Flower Value To Gardener:**

Long Bloom Season

Showy

**Flower Bloom Time:**

Spring

Summer

**Flower Shape:**

Bell

**Flower Petals:**

4-5 petals/rays

fused petals

**Flower Description:**

Early to late spring and into the summer dense clusters of dusty purple-blue flowers open sequentially on fiddle-head shaped stems. There are 5 fuzzy sepals and the bell-shaped flowers have a fused corolla center parts of the flowers, darker purple stamens and styles stick out beyond the petals.

**Leaves:**

**Leaf Color:**

Green

**Leaf Type:**

Compound (Pinnately , Bipinnately, Palmately)

**Leaf Arrangement:**

Alternate

**Leaf Shape:**

Oblong

Ovate

Pinnatifid

**Leaf Margin:**

Dentate

Lobed

**Hairs Present:**

Yes

**Leaf Length:**

> 6 inches

**Leaf Width:**

3-6 inches

**Leaf Description:**

Fern-like leaves variable sizes up to 8" bipinnatifid oblong to ovate compound divided into leaflets with toothed lobes.

**Landscape:**

**Landscape Location:**

Meadow

Naturalized Area

**Landscape Theme:**

Pollinator Garden

**Attracts:**

Bees

Specialized Bees

**Resistance To Challenges:**

Drought

Heat

**Problems:**

Weedy

**Stem:**

**Stem Color:**

Green

**Stem Is Aromatic:**

No

**Stem Surface:**

Hairy (pubescent)

**Stem Description:**

Erect, or semi-erect, glandular with short stiff hairs, succulent