

TEXAS BLUEBONNETS



Texas Traditions

- Family photos in bluebonnet fields are a Texas tradition
- Bluebonnets peak in mid-April
- Lady Bird Johnson inspired many Texans

History of the Bluebonnet

In 1901, the Texas Legislature named *Lupinus subcarnosus*, the bluebonnet, the state flower. Some residents believed this to be the least attractive species of bluebonnets. In 1971, the Texas Legislature added a clause to include another species of bluebonnet, *Lupinus texensis*, as well as any other variation of bluebonnet not yet recorded. Because of this, Texas actually has 6 state flowers today.

Bluebonnets and Texas Highways

The Texas Department of Transportation buys and sows about 30,000 pounds of wildflower seed each year. In 1932, the Texas Highway Department hired its first landscape architect to maintain, preserve, and encourage wildflowers and other native plants. By 1934, department rules delayed all mowing, unless essential for safety, until spring and early summer wildflower seasons were over. This practice has been followed for more than 80 years.

*When the pastures are green
in the springtime*

*And the birds are singing
their sonnets,*

*You may look to the hills
and the valleys*

*And they're covered with
lovely Bluebonnets.*

*- Texas State Flower Song,
"Bluebonnets"*
