Lobelia cardinalis
North American Native

Lobelia (lo-bee-lyah)
After Mathias de l’Obel (1538-1616), Flemish botanist.

cardinalis
(kar-di-nah-lis)
meaning Scarlet, the flower.

Zones: 5 – 9
Flower Color: Red
Height: 36”
Spacing: 18”

About the Species:

Common Name: Cardinal Flower
Brilliant red spikes up to 36” rise above the bronzy light green foliage on this native perennial that is happy in a moist, part-shady spot, or in the sun. You will see its flowers from August into September along a woodland path or by the edge much hummingbirds and

Habitat: Cardinal flower is found in ditches, ravines, along stream banks, swamps, springs, and in low woodlands, meadows and pastures.

In the Garden: Plant in full sun, or part-shade in warmer climates. Lobelia cardinalis prefers moist soil and will need constant moisture. Use in mass plantings, containers, as a cut flower, along the middle of the border, rain gardens, and along pond edges where it can be reflected in the water.

Family: Campanulaceae

Habitat:
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Map: USDA Plants Database

The Perennial Farm, 12017 Glen Arm Road, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057; Phone: 410-592-6106; Fax: 410-592-8338
Lobelia cardinalis
‘Fried Green Tomatoes’
North American Native Cultivar

*Lobelia* (lo-*bee*-lia) After Mathias de l’Obel (1538-1616), Flemish botanist.

*cardinalis* (kar-di-nah-lis) meaning Scarlet, the flower.

**Zones:** 5 – 9  **Flower Color:** Red
**Height:** 30 – 36”  **Spacing:** 18”

‘*Fried Green Tomatoes*’ is a selection from a batch of seed grown *Lobelia cardinalis* by a Pennsylvania nursery, Quality Growers. ‘Fried Green Tomatoes’ is very vigorous. Attracting butterflies and hummingbirds, the brilliant red flowers will start blooming in late June. The upper foliage emerges in the spring with maroon leaves that will turn to a deep olive tone while the foliage underside remains maroon as the days grow warmer. This plant prefers full sun and average to wet soil. A 2009 introduction from Plants Nouveau. PPAF

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*USDA Plants Database*
**Lobelia siphilitica**

*North American Native*

*Lobelia* (lo-bee-ly-ah) After Mathias de l’Obel (1538-1616), Flemish botanist.

*siphilitica* (si-fi-li-ti-ka) referring to the supposed medicinal properties useful in the treatment of syphilis.

**Zones:** 5 – 9  **Flower Color:** Blue  **Height:** 3 – 4’  **Spacing:** 18”

*About the Species:*

**Common Name:** Great Blue Lobelia  
**Family:** Campanulaceae

A bit more sun-tolerant than the Red *Lobelia*, the blue spikes of this native flower in August and September with the same upright growth habit and a bushier shape. Growing 3–4’ tall. The blue *Lobelia* prefers moist soils in partial shade.

**Habitat:** Great Blue Lobelia grows in open wet areas, marshes, meadows, wet woods, and along streambanks.

**In the Garden:** The bright blue flowers in late summer make this a nice addition for the perennial border and attractive to birds, especially hummingbirds. Also well suited for the wild, native, or woodland garden, or planted next to ponds and along streams.

**Other Uses:** Native American Indians used *Lobelia siphilitica* for various medicinal purposes, most notably the Cherokee having used it in the treatment of syphilis. The Meskwaki believed in the power of its properties as a love enduring medicine.