Heliophila coronopifolia

Morgan Mangelsen
TAXONOMY

- Hardy in zones 8-10

- Common names are African Blue Flax, Blue Eyes, Showy Sunflax, or Wild Flax

Photo courtesy of Puccio
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND NATIVE HABITAT

- Located in South Africa near Cape Town
- Mediterranean climate
- Typically found in open fields
- Only seven percent of the flora in the area are annuals

Photo courtesy of Charles Sturton
TAXONOMIC DESCRIPTION

- Herbaceous annual
- Erect in stature
- Leaves are filliform but can be pinnately compound
- Light green to blue-green in color
- Flowers have four petals, four sepals and six stamens
- Seeds are located in long thing siliquaes
- No indigenous uses but is being studied for its blue pigments
PROPAGATION METHODS

- Seed is best option
- Short life cycle
- No apparent dormancy
- Propagated seeds in 288 plug tray
  - Half covered/half uncovered
- After one week 85% germination was observed, 100% after two weeks
- Transferred to capillary mats after 2 weeks
- Transplanted after 3 weeks
- Ten weeks after sowing, flower buds emerged on each plant
MARKET NICHE

- Target sales date would be mid-May
- Possible holidays are Mother’s Day and Independence Day
- Initial problems with sales, possibly
- Very short life cycle
ANTICIPATED CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- Zones 8-10
- Tolerates heat and drought but prefers regular watering
- Prefers well-drained soil
- Not a lot of information on nutrition requirements or pest issues

Photo courtesy of Charles Sturton
PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

- Seeds should be sown in week 12
- Germination will take 1-2 weeks
- Plants should be taken out of mist house in second week
- Transplant to 606 trays in week 3
- Remain under long day conditions
- Plants should not be sold in the flowering stage


