

# Forked bluecurls

(*Trichostema dichotomum*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Forked bluecurls is an herbaceous to woody annual that bears dainty yet distinctive bluish-purple blooms. Flowers are two-lipped; the lower lip is white with purplish spots and tips. Stamens are long, purple and obviously curled. Leaves are narrowly elliptical and oppositely arranged. Stems are pubescent.

Flowers are short-lived, opening only in the morning, but individual plants may produce thousands of flowers throughout a season.

It also has a particularly long flowering season, typically beginning in late summer and lasting through late fall, although flowering can continue into winter and sometimes even spring, depending on conditions. It tends to flower heaviest as the weather starts to get cooler.

Forked bluecurls occurs naturally in sandhills, pine flatwoods, and open hammocks, as well as in disturbed areas throughout Florida. It is attractive to many pollinators, but especially to bees.

**Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint family)

**Native range:** Throughout Florida

To see where natural populations of Forked bluecurls have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Lifespan:** Annual

**Soil:** Well-drained, sandy soils

**Exposure:** Full sun to minimal shade

**Growth habit:** 1–3' tall, 1–2' wide

**Propagation:** Seed, cuttings

**Florida regions of landscape suitability:** North, Central, South

**Garden tips:** Forked bluecurls is an ideal addition to a home landscape. It can be propagated by seeds or cuttings. It is a prolific self-seeder and spreads quickly, so it may require thinning to keep in check.

Forked bluecurls are sometimes available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit [www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a nursery in your area.



Photo by Emily Bell

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