

# Downy Skullcap



**The genus name comes from the Latin word scutella meaning a small dish or saucer. These plants have bitter-tasting leaves so are usually ignored by deer and rabbits.**

## *Scutellaria incana*

- **Use:** This native Eastern wildflower produces soft blue-violet, hooded flowers in 6" racemes above a bushy mound of green, toothed foliage for several weeks in summer. Pollinators find it attractive but four-legged creatures do not due to its bitter-tasting foliage. In the wild it can be found in old fields, meadows, roadside strips, open woodlands and brushy thickets. It is a very tough and durable plant and for this reason it should be planted in native gardens or introduced into natural habitats where it is absent and can naturalize and spread on its own.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Best in some shade where it will spread by rhizomes to form small colonies. It prefers moderate moisture in well-drained soil but tolerates sandy, clay, and poor soils. It grows in dry woods or clearings. This plant is tolerant of heat and drought once established.
- **Growth:** Grows quickly 2-3' tall and 1.5-2' wide. Can continue to spread by rhizomes over time so you may want to consider it for a pot or use metal edging to contain them if you only have a small area.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-8; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; The green ovate leaves are covered with minute whitish hairs on the undersides. Margins are crenate. They grow up to 3 inches long and 1.5 inches across.
- **Flower:** The square stems are covered with fine white hairs and small purplish-blue flowers bloom in loose racemes in summer.