

Ceratostigma - Growing Guide

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Shrubby plumbago

Ceratostigma are always popular shrubs because they have the great merit of having blue flowers. The generic name refers to the horn-like outgrowths on the stigma. These are useful evergreen and deciduous shrubs, originally from China and the Himalayas, with five lobed blue flowers borne in spike-like clusters from late summer to autumn. They can be grown in sun and shelter; perhaps against a warm wall in a shrub or a mixed border. The varieties which we grow are perfectly hardy although shrubby species may experience some dieback after a cold winter. The shrubby species can therefore benefit from a light top pruning in spring to remove any deadwood, to keep them in shape, and encourage better flowering in the following season. *C. plumbaginoides* is also suitable as groundcover or in the rock garden and requires no pruning.

C. abyssinicum is the exception to the above in that, despite being a sturdy growing shrub with sky-blue flowers, it is only half hardy and is therefore probably only for the greenhouse or patio.



*Ceratostigma
abyssinicum*



*Ceratostigma
abyssinicum*



*Ceratostigma
abyssinicum*

C. griffithii is a rounded evergreen shrub or sub-shrub which grows to around 3ft in height with a larger spread. The large flowers are bright blue in spike-like terminal clusters and the leaves turn red in autumn and winter.



Ceratostigma griffithii



Ceratostigma griffithii



Ceratostigma griffithii

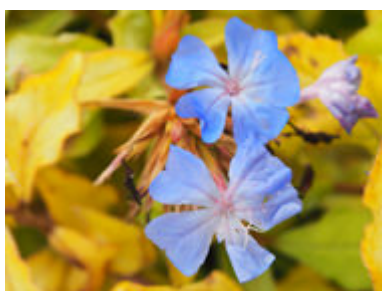


Ceratostigma willmottianum



Ceratostigma willmottianum

C. willmottianum
'Sapphire Ring'



C. willmottianum
'Sapphire Ring'



C. willmottianum &
Verbascum olympicum



Ceratostigma & *Cotinus*
'Royal Purple'



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