No one wants summer to end! “The Great Blue Lobelia” and other blue flowers of summer, Midsummer blues, and a twisted disorder much like cabin fever in winter, with symptoms of dreading to deadhead, facing watering when dew on the grass isn’t enough and the search for thirsty aphids. You could sing the blues or look for blue flowers that thrive with the shortening of each summer day. In the mix, and seeking moisture, I have found several plants that give a color of coolness. Living in the lakes area you have a possible environment for Great Blue Lobelia, Lobelia siphilitica , Monkey Flower, Mimulus rigens and Shining Aster, Aster firmus. Great blue lobelia will usually bloom the first year. As soon as seeds are dry they may be planted in a cool, damp place with plenty of light. They do not need cold stratification to germinate. A wet area around your home is a possibility, or an artesian well such as we have in the wetland area by the Papakeechie Dam will provide the perfect environment for lobelia. Other blue flowers blooming on the drier embankment around the Wetland are; Chicory, Cichorium intybus, Vervain, Vervain prostrate, and New England Aster, Aster novae-angliae. Verbena hastate, or Blue Verbena is a slow growing, but long lasting native plant that blooms through the end of summer. Why would I choose blue? Sometimes, I reluctantly deal with changing seasons by recounting desirable events. Blue, the color of coolness offers a vision of distant blue water, such as Lake Michigan, reminders and memories of vacations with this primary color. I plant Hyacinth bean seeds later, closer to June, which gives me something to look forward to as the hostas fade. They have light lavender flowers followed by purple pods and will appear about the same time that the Monkshood, aconitum is growing tall. The vines can be supported by these stalks. Beginning at the end of August, Hosta, lancifolia, is slug resistant and which has an erect vase-shaped, strong, slender leaved arrangement will bloom a beautiful blue lily. This combination of plants blooming in the hot part of summer can contribute to dispelling the blues of the season. Boneset, Eupatorium perfoliatum, a white flower will have been blooming for a while and next season some may be moved to the back of the arrangement. White is a good contrast for the purple Monkshood. Not far from the Wetland is a private Herb Garden with Alliums millennium, Hyacinth Bean vine, Dolichos lablab and Bottle top Gentian, (Geatiana andrewsii). These are a favorite color of the honeybee. The bumblebee is very strong and able to crawl into the gentian by opening the capsule to get the nectar, thus pollinating in the process. The compliment color of blue is orange. Cardinal plant (lobelia cardinalis), a red to orange blend has colonized in the wetland. An easy way to move color around is with container planting. The Persian shield, (Thai basil, Rosemary) have grown enough to be flowering. Blue flowers of the Rosemary, light lavender flowers on the Thai basil need a little longer than most to flower. As one perennial fades a new blend of flowering plants can be moved in.