White Sage

Salvia apiana



White Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 30 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 30 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Bee Sage

Description:

An interesting cultivar of salvia producing fuzzy gray-green foliage; tiny white blooms in spring are not highly visible; a beautiful foliage addition to borders or containers and a magnet for pollinating bees



White Sage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

White Sage's attractive tomentose narrow leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features dainty spikes of white flowers with lavender spots rising above the foliage from mid to late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting.

Landscape Attributes

White Sage is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

White Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

White Sage will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

White Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.