Midnight Candle Salvia

Salvia farinacea 'Midnight Candle'

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Mealycup Sage

Description:

This variety produces rich, deep purple blooms, densely covering each sturdy stalk; a compact plant with better branching, good weather resistance, and a long season of bloom



Midnight Candle Salvia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Midnight Candle Salvia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Midnight Candle Salvia has masses of beautiful spikes of deep purple flowers with blue overtones and a white blotch rising above the foliage from late spring to mid fall, which emerge from distinctive lavender flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Midnight Candle Salvia is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds 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.

Midnight Candle Salvia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Midnight Candle Salvia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Midnight Candle Salvia will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. It grows at a fast 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 prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Midnight Candle Salvia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.