Berzerkeley Sage

Salvia microphylla 'Berzerkeley'



Berzerkeley Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 5 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Baby Sage, Graham's Sage, Blackcurrant Sage

Description:

Incredible, vivid pink-red blooms are borne above the fine green foliage; flowers almost year-round in warm climates; drought and heat tolerant, does well under various light conditions

Ornamental Features

Berzerkeley Sage has masses of beautiful fragrant hot pink flowers with red overtones and white eyes at the ends of the stems from late winter to late fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its small glossy pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Berzerkeley Sage is an herbaceous evergreen 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 should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, 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.

Berzerkeley Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Berzerkeley Sage will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Berzerkeley 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.