Sonoma Sage

Salvia sonomensis

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 14 inches

Spread: 5 feet

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Creeping Sage

Description:

This variety is a flat, spreading groundcover salvia that will creep about the landscape with trailing stems of gray-green foliage; blue-violet flowers on leafless stems in spring to summer; best when massed in the landscape as an attractive groundcover



Sonoma Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Sonoma Sage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Sonoma Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of violet flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from early spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive tomentose narrow leaves remain grayish green in color with curious white undersides and tinges of silver throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Sonoma Sage is a dense herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

Sonoma Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sonoma Sage will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 14 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 5 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 6 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 does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. 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. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America.

Sonoma Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.