



Lilac Sage

Salvia verticillata

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Whorled Sage, Whorled Clary, Perennial Salvia

Description:

An erect perennial variety featuring arched, whorled spikes of two-lipped lilac blue flowers throughout summer; tolerates drought once established; best in poorer soils; deadhead to extend flowering; perfect for borders, rock gardens, or naturalizing

Ornamental Features

Lilac Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of lilac purple flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from early to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant oval leaves remain dark green in color with curious grayish green undersides throughout the season. The burgundy stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Lilac Sage 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 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, 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.



Lilac Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Lilac Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Lilac Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Lilac Sage will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 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 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 poor soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Lilac 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.