



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Salvia farinacea* 'Victoria Blue'¹**

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Introduction

This cultivar of Blue Salvia, native to southwestern United States, adds a soft purple color to any sunny landscape (Fig. 1). Plants grow to about 2 feet tall and will spread with a tight head to about two feet. Flower spikes are held well above the dense, grey/green foliage, displaying the striking purple color nicely. Plants are very uniform, providing a nice, solid structure to any landscape planting. Many other cultivars have been selected for flower color and plant height.

General Information

Scientific name: *Salvia farinacea* 'Victoria Blue'

Pronunciation: SAL-vee-uh fair-rin-NAY-see-uh

Common name(s): 'Victoria Blue' Sage, 'Victoria Blue' Salvia

Family: *Labiatae*

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 9 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 9: Mar; Sep; Nov; Dec

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Oct; Nov

Origin: native to North America

Uses: border; cut flowers; attracts butterflies; attracts hummingbirds

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 1. 'Victoria Blue' Sage.

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled

Description

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 3 feet

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: serrate
Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: not applicable
Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: purple
Flower characteristic: summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit
Fruit length: no fruit
Fruit cover: no fruit
Fruit color: not applicable
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Space plants about 12 inches apart to quickly form a solid mass of purple color. Set a mass planting of Blue Salvia in front of a dark green background of foliage from a dense shrub for maximum effect. 'Victoria Blue' Salvia also looks nice planted in a perennial border mixed with other perennials and grasses. It is also suited for planting in a container and displayed on a deck or patio.

Pests and Diseases

Aphids suck plant juices and may coat the leaves with sticky honeydew.

Powdery mildew may coat the leaves with a white powdery growth.