



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Salvia farinacea* 'Victoria Blue'<sup>1</sup>**

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe<sup>2</sup>

### **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

### **Description**

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet



**Figure 1.** 'Victoria Blue' Sage.

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** whorled

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-522, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Teresa Howe, coordinator - Research Programs/Services, Gulf Coast REC, Bradenton, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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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.