



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Salvia guarantica x gesneraeflora 'Purple Majesty'¹

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Introduction

'Purple Majesty' is an herbaceous perennial that bears striking, deep purple flowers (Fig. 1). This 3-foot-tall upright plant has dark green foliage that adds a fine texture to the garden. Its rich flowers appear throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons.

General Information

Scientific name: *Salvia guarantica x gesneraeflora* 'Purple Majesty'

Pronunciation: SAL-vee-uh gar-RAN-tick-kuh

Common name(s): 'Purple Majesty' Sage, 'Purple Majesty' Salvia

Family: *Labiatae*

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep; Oct; Nov; Dec

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: cut flowers; border; edging; mass planting; attracts butterflies; attracts hummingbirds; hanging basket; cascading down a wall

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

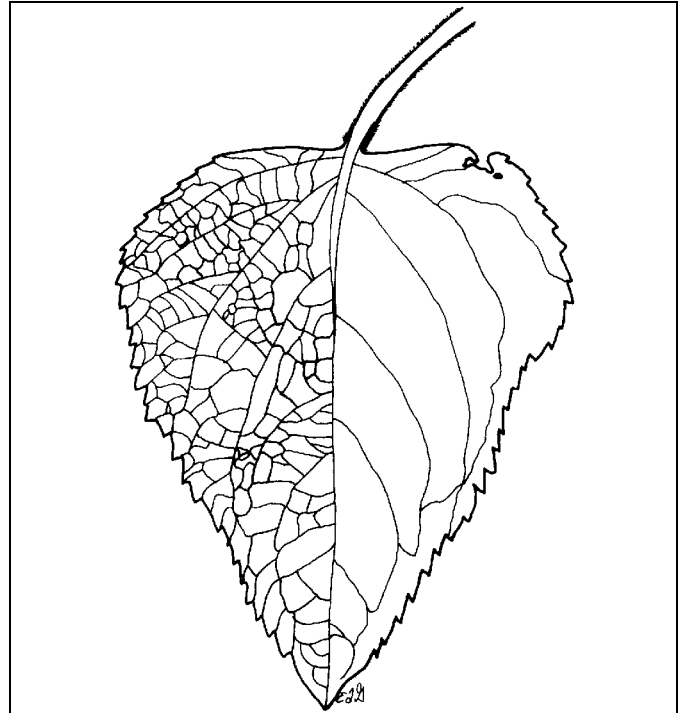


Figure 1. 'Purple Majesty' Sage.

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-526, 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>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** dentate
- Leaf shape:** saggitate (arrow)
- Leaf venation:** pinnate; reticulate
- 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:** spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering; flower season is longer in zones 9-11

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** unknown
- Fruit length:** unknown
- Fruit cover:** unknown
- Fruit color:** unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** green
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

Sage may be used as a specimen in a small garden, but is most attractive in mass plantings in most residential and commercial landscapes. Space plants about 15 inches apart to establish a quick cover.

Place Sage in an area of the landscape where it can receive full sun to partial shade. It favors well-drained soils and is quite drought tolerant. Both the tops and roots are generally unscathed by freezing temperatures in all but the coldest parts of Florida. Freezing temperatures kill the plant in the northern part of its range.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern other than chewing insects.