



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Salvia* x 'Purple Fountain'<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

'Purple Fountain' Sage is an herbaceous perennial growing about 2-foot-tall with an upright habit (Fig. 1). The rich, dark green, foliage adds a fine texture to the garden and is unusually glossy compared to other *Salvias*. Its bright red flowers grace the top of the plant throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Salvia* x 'Purple Fountain'

**Pronunciation:** SAL-vee-uh

**Common name(s):** 'Purple Fountain' Salvia, 'Purple Fountain' Sage

**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

**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

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

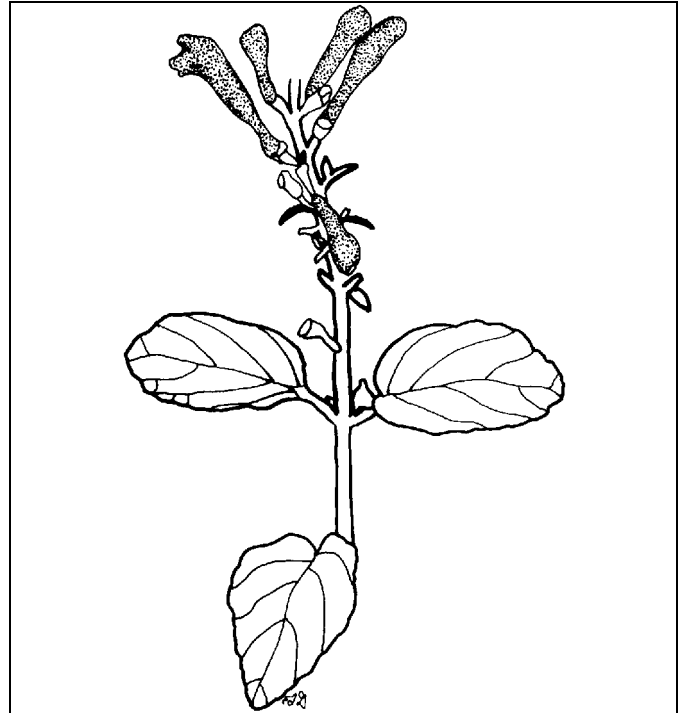


Figure 1. 'Purple Fountain' Salvia.

### Description

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** undulate
- Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)
- Leaf venation:** arcuate; bowed
- Leaf type and persistence:** semi-evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** not applicable
- Fall characteristic:** not applicable

**Flower**

- Flower color:** red
- 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:** thin

**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:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

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

## Use and Management

Sapphire 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 Salvias in an area of the landscape where they can receive full sun to partial shade. Salvias favor well-drained soils and they are quite drought tolerant. Some irrigation in an extended drought will help maintain nice plants. One or two fertilizer applications during the growing season will also help maintain good growth and nice foliage.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.