



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Salvia x 'Purple Fountain'¹

Edward F. Gilman²

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

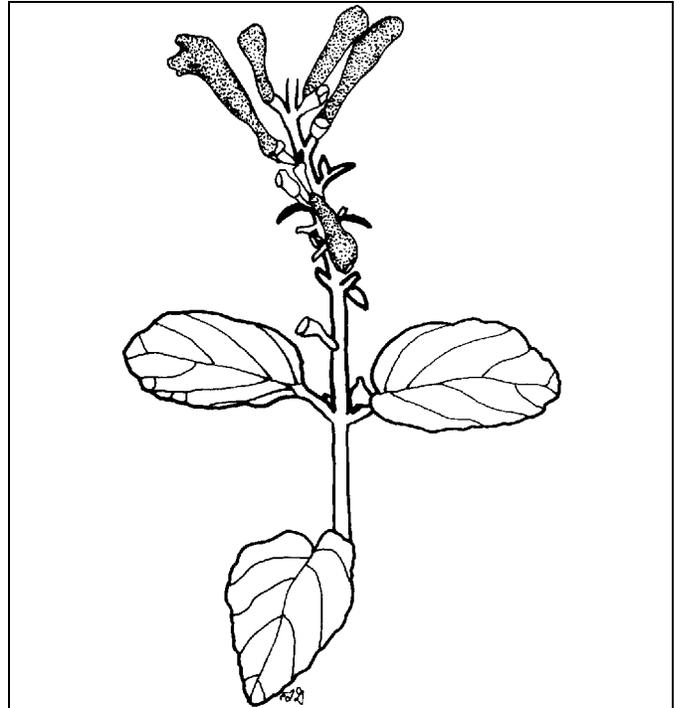


Figure 1. 'Purple Fountain' Salvia.

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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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, 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.

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.