

Botanical Name: Eranthemum pulchellum

Common Name: Blue sage, Blue eranthemum

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Acanthaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape A large, upright plant with large, coarse leaves and a dense compact, upright habit; spikes of bright blue flowers occur in early spring

Height 4 to 6 ft. Spread 4 to 6ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil prefers a well-amended soil that remains fairly moist

Hardiness some frost (zones 8,9 14-24)

Morphology:

Leaves coarse, bright green pinnate leaves; ovate to oval, 3 to 6" long, oppositely arranged

Flowers bright blue flowers in terminal spikes; spikes are up to 6" long; dead flowers persistent and not attractive

Fruit small woody capsules

Propagation: softwood cuttings

Usage: interesting plant for bright blue flowers in very early spring often used as a specimen in containers or in perennial borders as a background plant; good for foliage and flowers

Landscape Care:

Watering needs regular watering; not drought tolerant

Fertilizing slow-release at planting time

Pruning prune back hard (nearly to ground) after bloom

Pests/Diseases scale, mites, grasshoppers

Other benefits from hard pruning to keep compact

Origin: India