

Botanical Name: Salvia leucantha 'Midnight'

Common Name: Purple Velvet Mexican bush sage

Type of Plant: dicot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a mostly upright, soft-stemmed subshrub, with a clumping habit; forms a loosely rounded to mounded shape if unpruned; squarish stems are light greenish white

Height 1' - 3' (4') Spread equal or more Growth Rate moderate- rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors requires full sun for best flower production

Soil tolerates most, including heavy clay

Hardiness some frost (zones 12-24): thrives in warm coastal foothills

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, narrowly lanceolate or elliptic, 2"-4" long; grayish-green, with furrowed upper surface; margins slightly serrate

Flowers lavender or purple, on interrupted spikes; the 12" - 18" spikes are borne on the ends of the stems; Feb. - April and Sept. - Nov.

Fruit a capsule; tiny, papery

Propagation: softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a good low filler plant for quick effects; a profusely blooming shrub; informal borders, massed plantings on slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers an occasional deep soak; can tolerate regular watering or some drought

Fertilizing little is required after establishment

Pruning head back strongly after blooming period to control size and promote development of new flowering stems

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions tends to become leggy in heavily irrigated locations

Origin: Mexico Family: Lamiaceae