

Botanical Name: Salvia lemmonii

Common Name: Sonora sage

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low, wide-spreading shrub, with slender, many-branched stems forming a fairly dense, irregular mound with age; stems are ridged (squarish in cross-section)

Height 1' - 3' Spread 3' - 5' Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in full sun, warm locations; avoid deep shade

Soil prefers well-draining sites; tolerates normal garden water

Hardiness hardy (zones 11-14, 16, 18-24): best in warm low-elevation habitats

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, elliptic-oval, dark green, smooth on both surfaces; small (1/4"-1/2" long), fragrant when crushed

Flowers rose-lavender, slender, funnel-shaped, with bilabiate corolla; bisexual, approx. 1" long, solitary or in small clusters, mostly terminal

Fruit a small capsule

Propagation: seed or softwood cuttings

Usage: an excellent facer, border plant, or low filler, valued for its dark green foliage and contrasting rose-lavender flowers - is very drought tolerant after established; informal theme, sub-tropical gardens; good on slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering tolerates regular if drainage is excellent; prefers drier locations if grown on clay soils

Fertilizing little required after establishment; a light feeding plus mulching speeds up growth rate

Pruning little needed; selectively head back as needed to promote a fuller shape

Pests/Diseases root-rot in over-watered clay soils

Special Conditions

Origin: Sonora, Mexico Family: Lamiaceae