

Botanical Name: Salvia mellifera

Common Name: Black Sage, Green Sage

Type of Plant: dicot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low-growing, sprawling plant, with thin arching and spreading stems forming a loose cushiony mound

Height 1' - 2' Spread 5' - 8' Growth Rate moderate-rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors prefers full sun to partial shade at hot inland sites

Soil tolerates most, including clay

Hardiness hardy (Zones 8-24): thrives in warm coastal valley locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite (on squarish stems), oval-elliptic or oblong; pungent, fairly shiny, green above, paler beneath, 1"-2" long, with crenate margins, blades somewhat glandular

Flowers pale blue-white, in round clusters on terminal spikes;  
March - May

Fruit tiny nutlets

Propagation: softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a very drought-tolerant low filler or large-scale ground-cover for sunny slopes, good for dry locations in mostly frost-free coastal areas; good for quick effects and for erosion control on steep slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering little required except at hot inland sites, where periodic deep-soak irrigation is needed (14-21 days)

Fertilizing none required

Pruning head back after blooming to control width if needed

Pests/Diseases root fungus diseases in badly-draining sites

Special Conditions is rather short-lived if over-watered

Origin: CA. foothills Family: Lamiaceae