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Mirage™ Blue Autumn Sage

Salvia greggii 'Balmirleu'



Mirage Blue Autumn Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 14 inches

Spread: 16 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Gregg's Sage, Texas Sage

Group/Class: Mirage Series

Description:

Stunning, blue-violet flowers are borne above the airy green foliage on this spring to fall blooming perennial; a heat tolerant, compact series with a range of colors; perfect for mixed containers and borders; a great annual in colder climates

Ornamental Features

Mirage Blue Autumn Sage has masses of beautiful racemes of lightly-scented blue flowers with violet overtones and black calyces rising above the foliage from late spring to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the year.



Mirage Blue Autumn Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Mirage Blue Autumn Sage is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

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This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mirage Blue Autumn Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mirage Blue Autumn Sage will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 16 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Mirage Blue Autumn Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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