



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Blue Sage *Salvia faricacea*

DESCRIPTION: This 2-3 ft. upright or sprawling perennial, usually forms a mound as wide as the plant is tall. Mealy sage is named for the mealy-white (sometimes purple) appearance of the sepals, which are covered with felted hairs. The blue flowers are 5-lobed and 2-lipped, 2/3–3/4 inch long, with 2 stamens and 1 pistil. They have the usual sage fragrance. The long, narrow leaves grow in clusters, out of which grow the flower stems. The leaves may or may not have teeth. Dark-blue to white, tubular flowers are densely congested in whorls along the upper stems, creating a 3-9 in. spike. Gray-green, lance-shaped leaves are numerous, especially in the lower portion of the plant.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be used as a small colorful accent, low border, or in a rock garden. Also good for patio containers. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Down to at least 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light afternoon shade, or all-day very light shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate watering to establish. Benefits from regular water. Fertilizing is not necessary in the ground.



Soil requirements: Best in soil with good drainage.



Pruning: Spent flower stalks and to shape as needed.