



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### **Black Sage** *Salvia mellifera*

**DESCRIPTION:** Black sage is the most common sage in California and northern Baja California, and one of the keystone species of the coastal sage scrub plant community in the southern half of the state. Black sages grows quickly, mounding to 3 to 6 feet in height and as wide. The plant has attractive dark green leaves, 1-3 inches long. It is semi-deciduous; leaves may curl during the summer drought instead of dropping off. The plant is highly aromatic. White to lavender flowers occur in clusters any time of the year. The plant flowers are an important food source for butterflies and hummingbirds. The seeds are an important food for quail and other birds.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Black Sage is great for a bird garden and a butterfly garden. Use as a low barrier or mounding ground cover.

#### **CULTURE:**



**Hardiness:** Currently being tested, but may be fine to 20°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun to light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Low to moderate, depending on soil. Cut back water in the summer if soil doesn't drain well.



**Soil requirements:** Black Sage is able to grow on a variety of different soils, but must have good drainage.



**Pruning:** Any time, as needed.