

The Genus *Salvia*: SAGE

Not to be confused with California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), all true sages are members of the genus *Salvia*. Aromatic foliage, brightly colored blossoms attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies, fast growth and interesting forms make them good natives to include in any landscape. With growth habits ranging from spreading groundcovers to shrub-sized woody perennials, sages look wonderful planted in masses. They can be used to brighten up a border, to cover a slope, to line a drive or walkway or on their own as an accent or potted plant. Listed here are some of the *Salvias* we grow for the drought tolerant California Garden.



SALVIA CULTIVARS:

PLANT NAME	SIZE DESC	SIZE H X W	DESCRIPTION
<i>Salvia</i> 'Bee's Bliss'	mounding groundcover	1-2 x 3+	grey-green leaves, lavender-pink spikes, Sonoma Sage hybrid
<i>Salvia mellifera</i> 'Tera Seca'	mounding groundcover	1-2 x 6+	dark green leaves, excellent slope cover
<i>Salvia</i> 'Vicki Romo'	medium shrub	3 x 4	grey-green leaves, lavender flower, White Sage Hybrid
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Winifred Gilman'	medium shrub	3 x 3	dark leaves, red stems, purple flowers
<i>Salvia</i> 'Allen Chickering'	medium shrub	3 x 4	grey-green leaves, purple flowers
<i>Salvia</i> 'Aromas'	medium shrub	3 x 3	grey-green leaves, lavender flowers

NATIVE SPECIES:

PLANT NAME	SIZE DESC	SIZE H X W	DESCRIPTION
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White Sage	3-5 x 5	Fragrant white leaves stems and flowers, impressive
<i>Salvia brandegei</i>	Brandegee's Sage	3-4 x 4	Narrow-leaved small pale blue flowers pleasant scent
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage	5 x 4	Medium shrub grey-green leaves lavender flowers
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple Sage	3-4 x 4-6	Chalky light green leaves medium spreader pink-lavender flowers
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black Sage	3-5 x 6 +	Large shrub dark green foliage white flowers
<i>Salvia munzii</i>	San Miguel Mountain Sage	2-3 x 3	Mounding evergreen medium shrub small leaves
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Creeping Sage	<1 x 4 +	Perennial herb part-full shade drainage low-spreader
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage	2 x 3	Spreading perennial part shade to full sun tall showy flowering stalks

In addition to the native varieties shown above Tree of Life grows a few non-native sage; plants originating in Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. We have selected these types for their warm-season bloom, which will keep hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators active in your garden through summer. All are very sturdy plants in the landscape.

NON-NATIVE SPECIES:

PLANT NAME	SIZE DESC	SIZE H X W	DESCRIPTION
<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>	Electric Blue Sage	medium spreader	grey-green foliage, blooms often
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Autumn Sage	medium shrub	many flowers, versatile
<i>Salvia microphylla</i>	Summer Sage	medium to large spreader	red colors, small, bright-green leaves
<i>Salvia thymoides</i>	Thyme-Leaved Sage	small shrub	small tidy perennial, grey-white leaves, blue flowers

Most *Salvias* prefer full sun exposure and well drained soil. *Salvias* are fast growers with flowers borne at the branch tips, late spring and summer. They can be pruned after they bloom. You should remove the dry flower stalks, and shape the plant by cutting back approximately one-quarter of new growth. After several years, the plant may become somewhat woody. Most varieties will re-sprout from old wood. If you see latent buds or young shoots growing on the old branches, you can safely prune the plant severely in the fall. It will re-grow fresh and new during the cool rainy season, and bloom again the following spring.

APPROPRIATE COMPANION

PLANTS FOR SALVIA INCLUDE:

PLANT NAME	SIZE DESC
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California Sunflower
<i>Mimulus</i> sp.	Monkeyflower
<i>Penstemon</i> sp.	Beardtongue
<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	California Fuchsia
<i>Nassella</i> sp.	Needlegrass
<i>Eriogonum</i> sp.	Buckwheat
<i>Ceanothus</i> sp.	California Lilac

