



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Salvia farinacea

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

4801 La Crosse Avenue
Austin, Texas 78739-1702
(512) 292-4200
www.wildflower.org

Common name

Mealy blue sage

Range

In prairies, thickets, and meadows throughout Texas; mainly in central and west Texas to New Mexico.

Life cycle

Perennial

Bloom period

April - September; whorls of purple to violet-blue flowers are spaced along a spike-like inflorescence.

Soil preference

Well-drained sand, loam, caliche, and limestone soils

Exposure

Sun to partial sun

Propagation

Collect seeds when capsules have dried and plant them outdoors after the danger of frost is past. Cover them lightly and keep moist until sprouted, then water as needed.

Mealy blue sage can also be propagated by cuttings of new growth from the base, treated with a rooting hormone.

Maintenance

After an extended period of flowering, you may wish to prune it halfway back to produce thicker, more compact foliage and a shorter flowering plant. Pruning may delay flowering for several weeks, but it is important in preventing leggy plants.

This plant does best on thin, limestone soils. If you choose to plant it in partial sun be sure that the soil is particularly well-drained.



Miscellaneous

S. farinacea is in the mint family, Lamiaceae. If the leaves are crushed, it gives off a mint fragrance. It has square stems, another characteristic of the mint family.

It is an excellent plant for a flower bed, and is often planted in groupings to create an attractive mass of color. The leaves have a grayish cast which make a good contrast to lush green foliage of other plants. It is a good plant for a rock garden.