



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Salvia greggii

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

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Common name

Autumn sage

Range

In rocky soils in central, west, and south Texas

Life cycle

Perennial

Growth habit

A densely branched, mounded evergreen subshrub

Bloom period

March until frost, flowers off and on during this period. Showy flowers cover the plant and are borne in ascending spikes. Colors vary ranging from scarlet red, salmon, pink, and white.

Soil preference

Well-drained rocky soils, but very adaptable to other sites in cultivation.

Exposure

Sun to partial sun

Propagation

Most easily grown from both softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings taken from the base. Application of a rooting hormone improves rooting. Rooting should occur in three weeks. *S. greggii* can also be started from freshly gathered seed. Plant outdoors after danger of frost is past. Cover lightly and keep moist until sprouted, then water as needed.

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. Once established, it should not be fertilized.



Miscellaneous

S. greggii is in the mint family, Labiatae. If the leaves are crushed, it gives off a mint fragrance. Also, it has square stems, another characteristic of the mint family.

The showy flowers, evergreen leaves, and neat growth habit of autumn sage make it useful for borders and groundcovers on slopes. Mass planted, it is a dramatic color accent when in flower.