

Blue Sage

Scientific Name: *Salvia azurea*



<u>Life Cycle</u>	<u>Plant Height</u>	<u>Plant Spacing</u>	<u>Soil Moisture</u>	<u>Sun Exposure</u>	<u>Bloom Period</u>
Perennial	5 ft.	18 - 24 in.	Medium - Dry	Full, Partial	August - October

Salvia azurea, Blue sage is an easy-to-grow and beautiful plant for medium to somewhat dry soils.

This is a *Salvia* that has no trouble over-wintering in southern Minnesota without winter protection even though it originates in the middle states. It might also be called Azure Blue Sage or Pitcher Sage. In a prairie planting or naturalized setting, the unusual clear blue blooms are visible from a distance despite the plant's relative sparseness. The blue is a welcome sight among the many yellow prairie flowers of early fall. This bloom period of Blue Sage of late summer through early fall, attracts lots of bees and butterflies to the nectar. If you rub or brush against the leaves they will emit the aromatic smell typical of *Salvia* species, which also keeps it safe from most herbivores like deer and rabbits. The Hermit Sphinx Moth uses species in the genus *Salvia* as host plants. This plant has a tendency to "lodge" or flop over, especially in rich soils, so if you are not growing it in a plant community with grasses and other clumps to lean on, avoid fertilizer, pinch or stake, and/or provide sturdy neighboring plants with more mass to support this tall plant.

All information collected from www.prairiemoon.com