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Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage
Salvia leucophylla 'Amethyst Bluff'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

A native variety that may eventually grow quite large; whorls of purple flowers on towering spike in spring; silvery gray-green foliage is quite aromatic; used for erosion control on banks; excellent cut or dried flowers for arrangements

Ornamental Features

Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of purple flowers rising above the foliage from early to late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant narrow leaves remain grayish green in color with curious silver undersides throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage is a multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

Moana Lane Garden Center & Corporate Office
1100 W. Moana Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 825-0600
(775) 825-0602 - Corporate Office

South Virginia St. Garden Center
11301 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 853-1319

Pyramid Way Garden Center
3397 Pyramid Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 425-4300

Landscape Services & Design Center
1190 W. Moana Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 825-0602 ext. 134
NV Lic. #3379A, D & CA Lic. #317448

www.moananursery.com