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Gracias Sage

Salvia 'Gracias'

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 6 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Creeping Sage

Description:

An attractive low variety with a wide, spreading habit, producing striking spikes of lavender flowers; excellent as groundcover on slopes, or draping over rocks and walls

Ornamental Features

Gracias Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of fragrant lavender tubular flowers rising above the foliage from mid spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its tomentose narrow leaves emerge silver in spring, turning grayish green in color with curious silver undersides the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

Gracias Sage is an herbaceous annual with a ground-hugging 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. 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.

Gracias Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Gracias Sage

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Gracias Sage will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. Although it's not a true annual, this slow-growing 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any 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 pH, but grows best in rich soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Gracias Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. 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