

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH420



### SALVIA

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Meadow sage
- Scientific name: *Salvia sp.*
- Name derived from the Latin *salveo*, meaning ‘to heal’
- Mounding shrubs or herbaceous perennials, depending on the variety
- Height can range from 10-60’’
- Flowers grow on spikes and can be most any color
- Bloom early summer through fall
- Hardy to zone 3 or 4, depending on the species
- Many varieties have medicinal properties

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers full sun
- Requires well drained media
- Drought tolerant
- Many varieties perform poorly in over-fertilized media

#### PROPAGATION

- Often grown from seed
- Can be seeded directly into the garden or seeded indoors for transplantation later
- Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost

- Some varieties require light to germinate
- Transplant seedlings outdoors after threat of frost has passed
- Space seedlings 10-20'' apart, depending on the species
- Can also be propagated by division in spring

### DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
  - White coating on upper leaves
  - Foliage will wilt, brown, and drop
  - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Nematodes
  - Feed on roots and foliage, causing stunted growth and angular lesions on leaves
  - Remove infested soil or foliage
  - Provide proper maintenance to reduce plant stress

### CONSUMER CARE

- Regular pruning encourages bushy growth and reblooming
- Performs well when planted with other drought resistant plants
- Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies
- Often used in flower bouquets

### CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Salvia greggii*
  - 'Furman's Red': dark red flowers

- 'Wild Thing': cherry pink flowers
- *Salvia lyrata*
  - 'Purple Knockout': blue-purple flower spikes
- *Salvia nemorosa*
  - 'Blue Hill': true blue flowers
  - 'Caradonna': blue-violet florets
  - 'Marcus': dark violet-purple flowers
  - 'May Night': dark indigo violet flowers
  - 'Pink Friesland': pinkish-red flower spikes
  - 'Rose Wine': warm deep pink flower spikes
  - 'Snow Hill': white blooms
- *Salvia pratensis*
  - 'Eveline': light pink flowers with reddish throats
  - 'Rose Rhapsody': hooded pink flowers
  - 'Royal Crimson Distinction': royal crimson flower spikes

### References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvia>  
<http://www.gardenersnet.com/flower/salvia.htm>  
<http://www.soonerplantfarm.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/specials.specDetail/recID/33/index.htm>

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