Snavely's GARDEN CORNER

Over 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
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Merleau® Blue Sage

Salvia 'Merleau Blue'

Merleau Blue Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Perennial Salvia, Meadow Clary, Meadow Sage

Description:

A uniform, well branched salvia producing numerous burgundy spikes covered in blue-violet blooms; a beautiful addition to borders or beds with its dense and bushy form; looks fantastic in containers

Ornamental Features

Merleau Blue Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of sky blue flowers with violet overtones and burgundy calyces rising above the foliage from early summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Merleau Blue Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Merleau Blue Sage is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for 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.

Merleau Blue Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Merleau Blue Sage will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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.

Merleau Blue Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.