

Mexican Bush Sage, Dwarf - *Salvia leucantha*

Other Common Names: Dwarf Velvet Sage, Santa Barbara, Woody of Velvet



Noel Kaplonski, CC BY NC SA, Denton County MGA

MEXICAN BUSH SAGE, Dwarf

Salvia leucantha

TX Super Star Perennial Shrub  **Pollinators**



Full Sun Best/Light Shade **Water:** Low, drought tolerant
 3-4' Tall x 4-6' Wide **Color:** White, with velvety purple

Blooms: Late Summer → Frost

Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener

General Information

Mexican Bush Sage is classified as a *Salvia*, in the mint family. The “Santa Barbara” species of *Salvia leucantha* is a native from Mexico. It is a very hardy, drought tolerant perennial. The beautiful lavender flowers are spectacular throughout the Fall season and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Excellent in background or border; it is a perennial (to 25 degrees). Cut back twice a year to keep bushy and compact after blooming.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 7-10

Size: 3-4 ft w X 3-4 ft h

Flowers: Spiked velvety; purple, white, lavender.

Bloom time: Fall

Leaves: Opposite leaves with a silvery underside. Approximately 2.5 inches long and slender.

Growth Habit/Shape: Rounded, bushy

Soil Requirements: Well-drained, organically rich

Propagation: Cuttings taken in Spring

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor

Pests and Disease Problems

No significant problems

Notes

Deer resistant

Plant Care

Salvia leucantha loves bright sun and needs little or no water. This desert-like plant adapts to cool weather, prefers as little rainwater, and well-drained soil. If it does suffer some freeze damage in North Texas, it will bounce back in the late Spring. Prune any damaged foliage in late March or cut back to the ground

Sources for Additional Information

Texas SmartScape™

<https://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/sage-mexican-bush>

Texas Superstar™

<https://texassuperstar.com/mexican-bush-sage/>