






Vitex - *Vitex agnus-castus*

Other Common Names: Texas Lilac, Hemp Tree, Sage Tree, Indian Spice, Chaste Tree



Beverly Ivey, CC BY-NC-SA, Denton County MGA

VITEX
Vitex agnus-castus
Perennial Deciduous Shrub or Tree  **Pollinators**
 **Full Sun** **Water:** Medium   
 12-15' Tall / Wide **Color:** Violet Blue
Blooms: Summer

To avoid self-seeding, remove seedpods after flowering
 To manage size (6') cut within a few inches of the ground every winter, and fertilize (19-5-9) lawn fertilizer for larger bloom spikes

Grown by a Denton Master Gardener

General Information

Vitex grows quickly and offers easy maintenance. Although thought to be a native of China, India and Southern Europe, it has been cultivated in North America for over 300 years. North Texas gardeners use this Texas Superstar® plant as either a large shrub or small tree; it works well in xeriscape gardens

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 7-10

Size: 15 ft W x 15 ft H

Flowers: Spikes of lavender/purple blooms

Bloom time: May to September, heavy through Summer and sporadically through Fall

Leaves: Palmate, compound with 5 to 7 leaflets. Spicy fragrance when crushed. Yellow in Fall.

Dormancy: Deciduous

Soil Requirements: Best in loose soil/ medium moisture

Propagation: Self-seeds easily (perhaps too easily), seeds germinate in 12-24 days, cuttings can be rooted in water or put directly in soil.

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor

Pests and Disease Problems

None generally but occasional leaf spot and root rot.

Plant Care

Vitex grows best in full sun. Once established, it requires only a little supplemental water every 1-2 weeks, depending on rainfall. Fertilize at planting time and each Spring. Prune in late Winter/early Spring before leaves emerge.

Notes

Sap may be an irritant and can cause blisters. [NPSOT](#) deems this plant to be invasive.

Sources for Additional Information

Missouri Botanical Garden

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g290>

Texas Superstar® <https://texassuperstar.com/vitex-texas-lilac-or-chaste-tree/>