

Mexican Bush Sage Dwarf *Salvia leucantha*

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



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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*, a member of the mint family. The “Santa Barbara” species of *Salvia leucantha* is a native from Mexico. It is very hardy, drought tolerant, and deer resistant. The beautiful lavender flowers are spectacular throughout the fall season and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. It serves as an excellent background plant and a 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

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 3-4 foot tall by 3-4 foot wide

Flowers: Spiked velvety flowers, purple, white, lavender.

Bloom time: Fall

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

Pests and Disease Problems

No significant problems

Plant Care

This plant loves bright sun and needs little or no water. This desert-like plant adapts to cool weather, prefers as little rainwater as possible, 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. It prefers soils enriched with compost and top-dressed occasionally with organic mulch.

Warning

None

Sources for Additional Information

Missouri Botanical Garden. [Salvia leucantha](#)

North Carolina Extension Gardener. [Salvia leucantha](#)

Texas SmartScape. [Mexican Bush Sage](#)

Texas Superstar. [Mexican Bush Sage](#)