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Canary Island Sage

Salvia canariensis

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Description:

An interesting cultivar of salvia producing green foliage with white undersides; purplish-pink blooms with red tipped calyces in summer and fall; a beautiful addition to borders or containers with its dense, upright form; excellent for a dry, sunny area

Ornamental Features

Canary Island Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of lavender flowers with pink overtones and red 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 narrow leaves remain green in color with curious white undersides throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Canary Island 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.



Canary Island Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Canary Island Sage foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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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.

Canary Island Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Canary Island Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Canary Island Sage will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet 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 prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Canary Island Sage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.