

White Sage

Salvia Apiana, or often referred to as California White Sage, is a native sage that grows well in our area. It is often seen in dried in bundles at Native American or New Age stores. However, it makes a great landscape plant, drought tolerant once established and very pretty. It has a silvery white leaves that grow in a whorls and has lovely long flower spikes. It almost glows in the moonlight and is very aromatic. This is a must have for people who love native plants. Often this native variety is over harvested in the wild, so grow a few to help preserve the wild White Sage in its habitat.

Size: 3' x 5' at maturity

Exposure: Full sun

How to Plant: Plant from 4" or larger potted plants for best results.

Pruning: Trim off flower spikes after bloom.

Water needs: regular watering the first year. Then they can almost go without supplemental watering depending on your location.

Soil: White Sage will tolerate most lean soils but if you have clay plant high and dry. No wet conditions for this plant.

Snapshot: This is a California Native plant from Southern California to Baja California. I have had good luck growing it here in San Andreas but the plant stays a bit smaller. This plant is evergreen and better suited to the lower elevations of the Motherlode. In late spring it sends up long flower spikes about 2' -3' foot tall. They have a pinkish purple tinge to them and the flowers are white with a lavender tint. The flower spikes do have a tendency to be a bit sticky and all parts of the plant are very aromatic. I find the birds just love it. It is also used in Native American ceremonies for smudging and when burned has a pleasant scent.

Novella Springer
Calaveras Master Gardener
San Andreas