



Russian Sage (*Perovskia*)

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Russian Sage is an easy to grow, long-lived perennial that has a lengthy bloom period throughout late summer. Silvery foliage and blue flowers combine well with other plants in a mixed border and may soften the appearance of daylilies. It may also be used to create a soft screen in a natural garden or on a dry bank. They are not native to Minnesota.

Type	Perennial
Hardiness Zone	4 - 9
Sun	Full sun
Bloom Time	Mid or late summer to fall
Height	3' - 4'
Spread	3' - 4'
Tolerance	Drought tolerant
Attracts	Bees and butterflies
Additional Features	Deer and rabbit resistant

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: prefers well-drained soil
- Type: Soil should be poor to moderately fertile
- Placement considerations: Take care when growing next to heavy feeders as too much water and nitrogen will cause growth to flop. In fall, or in spring as new growth appears low on branches, cut back the plant hard to about 6 - 12" to encourage vigorous, bushy growth.

Planting Recommendations

- Type: purchase plants as growing from seed is not recommended
- When to plant: spring
- Spacing: three feet
- Division/transplant tips: generally does not need dividing

Maintenance

- Watering: medium to dry; very drought tolerant; does not like soggy soil
- Fertilization: depends on soil recommendations



- Pinching/deadheading: Pinch dead flowers back at base of stem to extend flowering time. You may also cut stems back after they are done blooming to get a second surge of flowers in the fall.
- Annual maintenance: clean up dead debris in fall

Common Problems

Disease: extremely hardy, susceptible to powdery mildew, see link below

Insects: minimal

Resources

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant?”

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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