

Salvia farinacea ***Victoria Blue***

Farinaceous Sage, Mealycup Sage

Culture guide

Uses:

Plant for bedding, pot and container plant for patio, cut flower production

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

24" / 60 cm

Crop time:

12-20 weeks

Sow time:

December-April for flowering in pots from April onwards; May-June for flowering in pots from August onwards

Sowing method:

2-3 seeds per plug, sowing directly into pot is recommended

Germination:

5-10 days at 72-76 °F (22-24 °C) in a media with very low soluble salt levels. Light aids germination and uniformity of germination. Keep soil uniformly moist but not wet; keep relative humidity levels near 95 %.

Growing On:

Transplant into pack, pots or larger containers with a well-drained media. Avoid high fertilization levels until plants have rooted out into the pot. Finish at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C).

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing perennial substrate with 0-15 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e. g. bark, wood fibres, perlite), 1-3 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.5. Field: humus, loamy soils with good drainage. Standard fertilization: 50-80 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer.

Temperature:

Grow at 14-16 °C. When the buds are visible, the temperature should be decreased to 14 °C. *S. farinacea* does not tolerate frost.

Fertilization:

Moderate-high fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 200-250 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. The roots are sensitive to high salt levels in substrates. Avoid high fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly.