Prime Time Russian Sage

Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Prime Time'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

Earlier blooming and denser flower spikes on a drought tolerant variety; dusky purple calyxes hold blue flowers longer into the season; fragrant flowers and foliage; a great addition to beds, borders and containers; lovely in fresh or dried arrangements



Prime Time Russian Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Prime Time Russian Sage features delicate spikes of lightly-scented blue flowers with purple calyces rising above the foliage from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant oval leaves remain green in color throughout the season.



Prime Time Russian Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Prime Time Russian Sage is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies 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.

Prime Time Russian Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Prime Time Russian Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Prime Time Russian Sage will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Prime Time Russian 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.