

September 2017 Plant of the Month

Russian Sage
Perovskia atriplicifolia

Plant Form: Deciduous Perennial
Water Use: Very Low
Mature Size: 3-4 ft. tall and wide
Exposure: Full Sun
Bloom Time: Summer - Fall (June - Sept)
Native to: Asia (Afghanistan to Tibet)
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to -20°F

Russian Sage is a hardy, drought-tolerant, heat-loving perennial that is underused in southwest landscapes. Small but brilliant violet-blue flowers seem to float in an airy cloud above its foliage from summer until a hard frost. Neither Russian nor a sage, the gray-green leaves of this mint family plant are aromatic when crushed, which helps to repel rabbits and deer. It tolerates almost any soil, from clay to sand, as well as salty and highly alkaline soils. This finely-textured plant blends perfectly with our southwest natives, working equally well in dry desert landscapes, cottage gardens, and Mediterranean gardens. Cut back plants to the ground in late winter to early spring as soon as new growth appears. Great as a background planting, in singles or clusters, or in linear rows as small divider hedges. Russian Sage beautifully compliments succulents, ornamental grasses, and other perennials.

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