TAGAWA gardens

Friendship Sage

Salvia 'Amistad'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Meadow Clary, Meadow Sage

Description:

A distinct cultivar of salvia producing volumes of violet blooms on near-black spikes all season; a beautiful addition to borders or beds with its dense and bushy form; looks fantastic in containers



Friendship Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Friendship Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Friendship Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of violet flowers with black calyces rising above the foliage from early summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The black stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Friendship Sage is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds 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.

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Friendship Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Friendship Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Friendship Sage will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Friendship 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.