

Salvia azurea 'Nekan' Nekan Blue Sage

A native to prairies of the Midwest, *Salvia azurea* 'Nekan' (Nekan Blue Sage) is right at home in full sun, prairie-style gardens. In contrast to many European sages, this species is light and airy with slender, fine leaves and a less-branched form. The arching stems are topped with a flourish of tiny, pale blue flowers that attract small pollinators. Plants reach 2-4' tall and 2-3' wide. If you brush your hand lightly through the foliage, you will experience that familiar, herbal sage scent. This understated prairie plant adds a beautiful touch of sky blue from August to October to contrast nicely with the prolific golden blooms of goldenrods and late sunflowers. Nekan Blue Sage prefers well-drained, sand or loam soils in full sun. It is drought, heat, and salt tolerant and is not bothered by herbivores.

Botanical Name: *Salvia azurea* 'Nekan'

Common Name: Nekan Blue Sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Nativity: US Native

USDA Zone: 4 to 9

Light Type: Full Sun

Soil Type: Loam, Sand

Soil Moisture: Dry to Medium

Typical height (ft): 2-4'

Typical width (ft): 2-3'

Foliage: Gray-green, narrow lanceolate leaves; herbal scent.

Bloom Time: August, September, October

Bloom: pale blue

Ecological features: Floral resources for pollinators

Tolerance of: Deer, drought, heat, salt, shallow rocky soils

Additional notes: This plant is not widely available in nurseries.

Companion plants: October Skies Aster (*Aster oblongifolius* 'October Skies'), Calico Aster (*Aster lateriflorus*), Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Bicknell's Sedge (*Carex bicknellii*), Rotstrahlbusch or Shenandoah Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Rotstrahlbusch' or 'Shenandoah'), Catmints (*Nepeta* spp.), ornamental grasses

For more information see:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=281505&isprofile=1&gen=Salvia>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/salvia-azurea/>

<https://www.plantdelights.com/products/salvia-azurea-nekan>

Images of *Salvia azurea* 'Nekan'



Salvia-azurea-Nekan.i-3361.s-17662.r-1_1bfccfb7-a2a7-4690-ad50-0aac0cea7b70_1024x1024.jpg

Plant form



Salvia_azurea_Nekan_6cUYX5DOsQkt.jpg
Flower close-up



SalviaAzureaNekan150430.jpg
Seedling

Image choices for narrative:

Salvia-azurea-Nekan.i-3361.s-17662.r-1_1bfccfb7-a2a7-4690-ad50-0aac0cea7b70_1024x1024.jpg - Plant form

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