

Salvia 'Rhapsody in Blue'

Rhapsody in Blue Wood Sage

Salvia 'Rhapsody in Blue' (Rhapsody in Blue Wood Sage) provides a dense spray of dark purple flowers from May through June. This sage emits a pleasantly herbal scent from the flowers and crushed foliage. The compact form of this variety (2' tall x 1.5' wide) makes it a good addition for even narrow borders and pocket gardens in full sun. While it can tolerate a range of soils, it must have good drainage. The profusion of blooms attracts a variety of bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds to the garden. Cutting back the spent flowers can stimulate a second bloom in late summer. Cut fresh or dried flowers carry the refreshing scent indoors. Pair this plant with later-blooming forbs or flowing grasses to provide a stunning early display against green foliage. Tolerant of drought, salt, and heat, and resistant to herbivore browse, this plant is a hardy choice for urban gardens.

Botanical Name: Salvia 'Rhapsody in Blue'

Common Name: Rhapsody in Blue Wood Sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Nativity: Not Native to US

USDA Zone: 4 to 8

Light Type: Full sun

Soil Type: Loam, Clay, Sand

Soil Preferences: Performs well in gravelly or sandy soils. Tolerates clay but must be well-drained.

Soil Moisture: Dry to Medium

Typical height (ft): 1.5-2'

Typical width (ft): 1-1.5'

Foliage: Green to gray-green

Bloom Time: May, June; may rebloom after dead-heading

Bloom: Deep purple to blue

Ecological features: Nectar attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Tolerance of: Deer, Rabbit, Drought, Salt, Heat

Additional notes: Wonderful flower and foliage scent.

Companion plants: Painted Porcelain Violet (*Viola* 'Painted Porcelain'), Early Bird Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii* 'Early Bird'), Album Hardy Geranium (*Geranium sanguineum* 'Album'), Sedges (*Carex* spp.), other Sage (*Salvia* Spp.)

For more information see:

<http://www.perennialresource.com/variety.php?ID=SALRB>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=262091&isprofile=0&basic=salvia>

<https://www.perennials.com/plants/salvia-nemorosa-rhapsody-in-blue.html>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/salvia/growing-different-salvia-types.htm>

Images of Salvia 'Rhapsody in Blue'



8726144250_3982548150_k.jpg

Plant use in a border with *Salvia pratensis* 'Pink Delight'



plant4.jpg

Flower color works well with bright green of sedges and pale blue of Amsonia.



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Plant form - compact and upright with dense flower spikes.



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Dense flower spikes.



0588656.jpg

Flower shape attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



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Color contrast with spring green foliage of later-blooming plants, like coreopsis.

Image choices for narrative:

e5d612ad354be55506870a9a255f31a5.jpg - Plant form - compact and upright with dense flower spikes.

e0cc5dfd4dec95188ad66c3c9fe61f6e.jpg - Color contrast with spring green foliage of later-blooming plants, like coreopsis.