



The Herb Society of America

Promising Plants Profiles

Salvia officinalis* x *Salvia fruticosa

Common Name: Salvia Newe Ya'ar', Silver leaf sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Genus: *Salvia*

Specific Epithet: *officinalis* x *S.fruticosa*

Cultivar:

Life cycle: perennial

Zone: 8, possibly zone 7 with protection

Flower color: lavender-blue

Bloom time: spring

Growth: 24 x 36 in.

Habit/Form: upright

Light requirements: full sun to partial shade

Soil requirements: well drained, loose, sandy

Propagation: cuttings, layering

Uses: culinary, ornamental

Other details: lighter aroma and taste than other sages

GRAS status: *Salvia officinalis* leaves are considered GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) at 300-4777 ppm, but *S. officinalis* is reportedly toxic in large amounts, and medicinal preparations are not recommended for extended use by some sources.



Photo courtesy of
South Texas Unit

Description: This *Salvia* was developed in Israel for commercial production in the Middle East. The plant has stunning silver foliage. The leaves are green to gray and the stems have long internodes. Repeated blooming of lilac-blue flowers sets this *Salvia* apart from *S. officinalis* and *S. origanum* 'Berggarten.'

Cultivation: *Salvia officinalis* x *S.fruticosa* is a long lived plant that tolerates high heat and humidity. The plant grows well in a loose, well-drained soil that has been enriched with organic matter. Prune after flowering in order to stimulate growth.

" An alternate *Salvia* to consider for southern herb growing is *Salvia officinalis* x *S. fruticosa*. This sage weathers the hottest, wettest weather the South can produce. It is long lived—Madalene Hill has plants 9 or 10 years old. According to Art Tucker, it has excellent flavor and aroma—not the harsh aroma and flavor of *S. officinalis*. The latter is treated as an annual in much of the South, not liking hot, humid summer weather. Also known as silver sage, reports about this herb are good from Northern gardeners but reports are glowing from Southern gardeners who can grow sage now." -Gloria McClure, *Promising Plants Presentation, 2008*

Please note: Profiles are intended to provide a brief introduction to each herb. For additional information, please refer to the References and Seed and Plant Source lists.

Disclaimer: Profiles are intended to provide a brief introduction to each herb. For additional information on uses, including medicinal contraindications, see the References list. The Herb Society of America can not advise, recommend, or prescribe herbs for medicinal use. Please consult a health care provider before pursuing any herbal treatments. Inclusion of vendor information does not indicate an endorsement by The Herb Society of America, and HSA can not guarantee availability of seeds/plants.

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