

Salvia x 'Indigo Spires' 'Indigo Spires' *Salvia*¹

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Introduction

Salvia x 'Indigo Spires' is a 1 1/2- to 3-foot-tall perennial that has dark green, ovate leaves of a medium texture. 'Indigo Spires' salvia bears foot-long spikes of purplish-blue flowers that rise above the foliage during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. These attractive flowers are almost iridescent in the fall, and they dry quite well and hold their color for flower arrangements.

General Information

Scientific name: *Salvia x 'Indigo Spires'*

Pronunciation: SAL-vee-uh

Common name(s): 'Indigo Spires' salvia, 'Indigo Spires' sage

Family: *Labiatae*

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11 (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep; Oct; Nov; Dec

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: cut flowers; border; edging; mass planting; attracts butterflies; attracts hummingbirds; hanging basket; cascading down a wall

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant



Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

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Leaf color: green

Fall color: not applicable

Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: purpleish-blue

Flower characteristic: spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering; flower season is longer in zones 9-11

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: unknown

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

'Indigo Spires' salvia is charming when used in the landscape as a specimen in a container or massed together in a landscape bed. The flowers are quite lovely when used in flower arrangements. They last several days as cut flowers.

'Indigo Spires' salvia should be placed in an area of the landscape that receives full sun, and it is not very particular as to soil type. It tolerates drought well and usually maintains itself with little or no irrigation once it is established provided showers occur regularly during the summer. This plant will need to be pruned back once or twice during the

year in order to keep it bushy. Plants that are not cut back become leggy and droop over, especially if grown in the partial shade. This perennial is frozen to the ground in the winter but will reappear in the spring in most of Florida.

Salvia x 'Indigo Spires' is propagated by cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.