Lindley's
Nursery and
Garden Center

Red Tropical Sage

Salvia coccinea



Red Tropical Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Blood Sage, Texas Sage, Scarlet Sage

Description:

A brilliant variety producing multiple tall spikes of dazzling scarlet-red blooms on contrasting black stems; a beautiful addition to borders or containers with its dense and bushy form

Ornamental Features

Red Tropical Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of scarlet tubular flowers 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 heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season. The black stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.



Red Tropical Sage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Red Tropical Sage is an herbaceous perennial 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. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into 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.

Red Tropical Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Red Tropical Sage will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

Red Tropical 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.