



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### White Sage or Salvia Blanca *Salvia apiana*

**DESCRIPTION:** White sage is a lanky, sparsely branched shrub to over six feet tall and wide with large white leaves. As with many Salvias, the leaves are pleasantly aromatic. Plants may lose nearly all leaves in summer, but will recover in fall. Tall spikes of large white to light violet flowers occur in the spring. Native to the California and Baja California from the pine forest to desert oases. Tends to be short-lived, 5-10 years.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use as a feature of either the transition or the dry zone of the xeriscape. Good for an aroma garden.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Hardy to at least 16°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun is essential for good compact form.



**Watering and feeding:** Require little water, about every two weeks during the winter growing season. Water no more than once a month during the summer, since overwatering at this time of dormancy can be lethal. Feed once or twice a year.



**Soil requirements:** Well drained soil is essential to prevent rot.



**Pruning:** Overgrown or leggy shrubs can be cut back in the late fall to reduce size and increase density.