Lakeshore Garden Centres

Shirley's Creeper Sage

4102 - 11th St. West
P.O. Box 2A RR3
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Shirley's Creeper Sage

Salvia 'Shirley's Creeper'



Shirley's Creeper Sage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Spacing: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

This hybrid variety forms a wide mound of aromatic, textured dark green foliage, unlike what its name suggests; spikes of whorled white flowers emerge in spring and attract pollinators; cut back annually for better appearance; great for meadow gardens

Ornamental Features

Shirley's Creeper Sage has masses of beautiful spikes of lightly-scented white flowers rising above the foliage from early to late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its tomentose narrow leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Shirley's Creeper Sage is an herbaceous annual with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. 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.

Shirley's Creeper Sage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Shirley's Creeper Sage will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 5 feet apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat. As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Shirley's Creeper 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.