

# BRANCHING OUT

A California Native Plant Introduction Program



*Salvia leucophylla* 'Amethyst Bluff'  
Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage



The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Plant Introduction Program "Branching Out" is dedicated to increasing awareness, appreciation, and availability of outstanding California native plants for landscapes and gardens.

BOTANICAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ *Salvia leucophylla*

CULTIVAR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 'Amethyst Bluff'

COMMON NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage

FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Lamiaceae

ORIGIN \_\_\_\_\_ A selection of purple sage by Horticulturist Carol Bornstein from the coastal bluffs of Point Sal in northern Santa Barbara County.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_ Starts out as a low-mounding shrub, eventually reaches 5 ft in height and continues to spread out laterally. Vivid purple-pink flowers on 12 inch stalks in spring to summer. Silvery foliage typical of the species.

WATER REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Tolerates drought conditions in southern California.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Wide soil tolerance.

EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ Best in full sun.

PESTS AND DISEASES \_\_\_\_\_ Occasional aphids on new growth.

HARDINESS \_\_\_\_\_ Zones 3, 18-24.

LANDSCAPE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_ The colorful spring floral display, silvery foliage, habit, and drought tolerance make this sage a fine candidate for a large-scale planting, particularly on sunny banks or slopes where it can sprawl freely and provide some erosion control. For gardeners eager to attract hummingbirds or keen on aromatic plants, this sage will satisfy on both counts.

PROPAGATION \_\_\_\_\_ Easy from cuttings.

\_\_\_\_\_ To commercially propagate this introduction, interested nurseries need to sign a licensing agreement with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

SALES POTENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_ Larger in size and deeper pink flowers than *Salvia* 'Pt. Sal' or 'Pt. Sal Spreader'. Popularity of sages in general continues unabated.

NURSERY AVAILABILITY \_\_\_\_\_ Native Sons Nursery (<http://nativeson.com/home2.html>)  
San Marcos Growers (<http://www.smgrowers.com/>)

For more information about this program, contact the Garden at 805-682-4726, ext. 114 or 148.  
Or, write to the Plant Introduction Program at 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105.



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