

# Russian Sage

*Perovskia atriplicifolia*

Russian sage is an attractive perennial with elongate, gray-green leaves and square, silvery-gray stems that produces an airy cloud of color late in the summer. The tiny, purple-blue, tubular flowers are arranged in whorls along long stems. Because of its appearance and cold hardiness to zone 4, Russian Sage can be used as a substitute for lavender in northern gardens. It is quite drought resistant. The species grows 3-4' tall, but some cultivars are more compact. Plant Russian sage in full sun and well-drained soil, spacing the plants about 18" apart. Plants will rot if the soil is too moist.



This plant has few pest problems, but they tend to flop, especially when young. Use stakes or nearby plants to support them. Leave the old stems on through winter. Prune back in spring to about a foot tall.

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[wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org)



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## Additional Resources

### Russian Sage

- Article on MG website at <http://wimastergardener.org/article/russian-sage-perovskia-atriplicifolia/>
- Article on the Missouri Botanic Garden's Kemper Center for Home Gardening website, *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, at <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e540>

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