

Salivating for Salvia?

The Salvia genus is an extremely large specimen family, and has been found in a wide range of habitats all across the globe. Most varieties found in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are excellent choices for full to part-sun gardens, tolerate a wide-range of soils with a preference towards well-draining soils, and will do well in both beds and containers. Maintenance is minimal with salvias - once established, they require very little supplemental irrigation and only the occasional shearing back of old foliage in the winter and late summer. Salvias are natural nectar sources for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Scent is most strongly found in the leaves of salvias. Easily grown from seed is the tall, red-flowering Pineapple Sage, typically an annual in our area. When their leaves are brushed, they release a pleasant aroma of fresh pineapple. Salvia flower colors range from white, red, orange, indigo, all shades of purple, pink and even yellow. Leaf colors come in all shades of green. One striking perennial is Salvia *Guaranticia* ('Black and Blue'), which bears lavender to dark-blue flower spires atop chartreuse leaves.

By far the most popular in the North Texas area is *Salvia Greggii*, also known as Autumn Sage or Cherry Sage. It is a perennial that produces fuchsia to dark-pink colored flowers from Spring through Fall, enjoys full sun, and survives on minimal watering. Mexican Bush Sage, a unique perennial, is a rather large plant with long, downy-green leaves that protrudes fuzzy purple and white colored plumes in the fall. A very persistent performer is *Salvia Farinacea*, a modest size plant with green leaves and indigo flower spires and requires minimal attention. You can cut this plant down several times and it will come back.



So this spring when you start looking for plant choices that can stand the heat and require minimal watering, consider the wonders of Salvias. Offering a rainbow of colors, variations and tenacity levels, Salvias provide a little something for everyone.

Salvias do exceptionally well when installed directly in our **Ready-To-Plant™** turnkey soil blend, or in beds tilled with our **pH Balanced Compost™** or **Revitalizer™**.

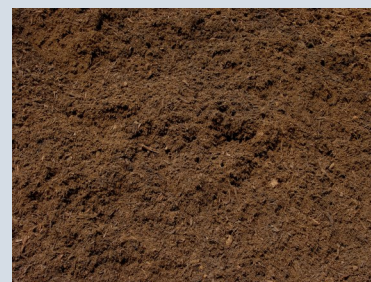
SBS sells heavy-duty reusable lawn bags. With a capacity of over 41 gallons (or 6.3 cubic feet), they will make clean-ups a breeze while saving you money over single-use bags. Each Yard-A-Bag has a heavy-duty strap for lifting and hauling and a drawstring top, and can be used over 200 times! Get ready for spring with these handy reusable bags.



Product Spotlight Revitalizer™

SBS's Revitalizer™ is a pH balanced product designed to be used when amending and tuning-up an existing planting bed.

When you want to add new organic matter to an established garden but can't due to existing roots getting in your way, use Revitalizer™ to gently fork-in to the existing soil as best as you can. As you work your way further away from the plant or tree stalk you should be able to do more vigorous pitchfork work to achieve better blending. But where you can't effectively penetrate the ground, it is not problem to leave the Revitalizer™ uncut/unblended, as it is safe to plant directly into when necessary.



This soil blend is made from our pH Balanced Compost™, select deep sands and screened soil. It is one of our most popular mixes for improving soil fertility while lowering the highly alkaline native clay-based soil towards a more neutral pH, when you don't choose to, or don't need to, perform a labor intensive tilling.

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