



Mexican Bush Sage *Salvia Leucantha 'Purple'*

03-88



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 8, 9, 14-17, 19-24,	Full sun	Prepared	Limit watering to every two the three weeks	Long bear whorls of ¾ to 1 ¼ inch white flowers with purples calyxes, remove blossoms as soon as they fade	3-5 Feet tall

Mexican bush sage is a bushy evergreen subshrub in frostfree climes, and a returning perennial where it gets frosted back in winter. It grows in a loose, spreading mound up to 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m) tall and about the same width. The leaves are lance shaped, like willow leaves, 1-5 in (2.5-12.7 cm) long, puckery on top and white-wooly underneath. They are on petioles about an inch long and arranged in opposite pairs along the squarish stems. The young, fast growing stems are thick and conspicuously white-wooly. From autumn throughout winter (or until the first frost) Mexican bush sage blooms with white flowers 1-2 (2.5-5 cm) long that extend from velvety purple or lavender-blue calyxes. The bicolored inflorescences are borne in very showy elongated arching clusters 6-12 (15-30.5 cm) in length at the ends of erect, spreading stems. At any given time, there will be just a few actual flowers per cluster, but lots of pretty purple calyxes. These inflorescences are profuse and extend way beyond the foliage, making this one of the most attractive of the salvias. Some cultivars of Mexican bush sage (for example, 'Midnight' and 'Purple Velvet') have flowers the same color as the purple calyxes.