

Hummingbird Sage

Salvia spathacea



General Information

- Sun Exposure: Full shade, part shade
- Water Needs: Very low. Water max 2x / month once established during the summer
- Cold Tolerance: Tolerates cold to 0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Flowering Time: Winter, spring, and summer

Planting Guide

- Propagating: Spreads by rhizomes
- Growing from seed: Hummingbird sage seeds do not require any treatment. Sow the seeds outdoors in early fall. Germination may be poor if diurnal fluctuation is insufficient
- Location: Grows best in dry shady areas with deep soil
- Soil Description: Medium draining soil, deep soil (for rhizomes), clay, with a pH of 5.0-7.0
- Initial Watering: Water deeply every 2-4 days for the first month after planting. Decrease the watering to once every 2-4 weeks depending on soil type and rainfall.

Care Guide

- Irrigation: Water 1" once a month from April to October. Water 0-2" (at 1" intervals) from November to March
- Pruning:
 - Can be deadheaded and lightly pruned in summer
 - Pruning immediately after the first bloom will encourage blooming in the following year, but reduces seed output
 - Remove dead seeds heads in the fall, but do not prune deeper until the spring
 - Remove spent flower stalks regularly
 - Can pinch back young plants to create denser growth by pinching off the stem using your thumb and forefinger at a node or pair of buds
- Fertilizer: Is not required

Additional Notes

- Attracts hummingbirds
- Prone to powdery mildew when grown in heavily shaded areas

Sources:

- [https://calscape.org/Salvia-spathacea-\(Hummingbird-Sage\)](https://calscape.org/Salvia-spathacea-(Hummingbird-Sage))
- <https://inlandvalleygardenplanner.org/plants/salvia-spathacea/>
- <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/salvia/growing-hummingbird-sage-plants.htm#:~:text=Hummingbird%20sage%20can%20be%20propagated,more%20rhizomes%20and%20growth%20buds.>
- <https://www.fbts.com/a-gardeners-guide-to-hummingbird-sage.html>