



Photo: Margaret Fabrizio

**Common Name:** Russian Sage

**Plant Type:** Perennial

**Light Requirements:**  
Full Sun

**Height:** 3-5 ft.

**Bloom Time:** late June-  
October/November

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-9

## **Perovskia atriplicifolia**

*Perovskia atriplicifolia* (synonym *Salvia yangii*) is a woody perennial or sub-shrub in the mint family (Lamiaceae). Despite its common name of Russian sage, this plant is native to southwest and Central Asia.

Russian sage can grow 3-5 ft tall and has gray-green foliage which is highly aromatic when crushed. The delicate purple flowers have a very long bloom time, making it an excellent plant for perennial gardens. It grows best in full sun, which will produce better flowering on stronger stems. Plants may need staking in partial shade. Russian sage likes average to dry conditions and requires good drainage. Plants are highly drought tolerant once established. Roots can rot in wet soils with poor drainage.

Russian sage attracts honeybees, carpenter bees, leaf cutter bees, and hummingbirds, which all enjoy the nectar of the flowers. It requires very little care when grown in ideal conditions. Cut back plants close to the ground in late fall or early spring, and they will grow back each summer to produce glorious blooms. It is also deer and rabbit resistant. Russian Sage spreads readily by rhizomes and can create large clumps which should be divided every 3-5 years. Some older cultivars of Russian Sage tend to sprawl open in late spring. If this happens, the top third of the stems can be sheared back to encourage more upright growth.

References:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/salvia-yangii/>

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/12-plants-entice-pollinators-to-your-garden>

<https://currituck.ces.ncsu.edu/Russiansage>