

Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue'

Black and Blue Salvia hits the trifecta (and more) of desirable characteristics. The nectar of the showy flowers attracts hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. This easy, fast-growing, low-maintenance perennial has no serious insect or disease problems. And it resists deer, heat and drought.

It goes by several common names: Black and Blue Anise-Scented Sage, Black and Blue Salvia and Brazilian Anise Sage 'Black and Blue.' The *black* and *blue* of the name refers to the spikes of cobalt-blue flowers with black calyces in mid-summer. The two-lipped, tubular flowers are 1 ½ to 2 inches long on axillary and terminal spikes that are up to 10 inches long. They bloom from July to frost.

This native of Brazil, Paraguay and northern Argentina grows as a perennial or subshrub in USDA zones 7 through 10, although it is grown as an annual in colder zones. Here it grows 2 to 5 feet tall and equally wide. If 2 to 5 feet is too tall, reduce height by cutting back stems in late spring or pinching back about monthly to keep plants full and compact.

Its bushy, somewhat open habit with upright, branching, square stems lends itself to butterfly and cottage gardens, drought-tolerant and pollinator gardens, borders and mass plantings. This member of the mint family benefits from deadheading spent flowers to encourage more blooms, pruning to the ground in late winter, and dividing the clumps every couple of years.

Plant 'Black and Blue' salvias 3 to 6 feet apart in full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day). If planted in too much shade, they tend to be gangly and have fewer flowers. They *prefer* rich loamy soils that are moist and well-drained, but they *accept* sand. Once established, they may become more heat- and drought-tolerant.

Fertilize container-grown Black and Blue Salvia monthly, but when planted in the landscape it requires little additional fertilizer.

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Note the opposite leaf attachment and square, black, stems -
Peganum
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Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue'



The tubular flower attracts hummingbirds
BudOhio
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For more information on gardening in Brunswick County, please call the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, 910.253.2610.

SOURCES:

[Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue' \(Anise-scented sage 'Black and Blue', Black and Blue Anise-Scented Sage, Black and Blue Salvia, Blue Anise Sage 'Black and Blue', Brazilian Anise Sage 'Black and Blue'\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

[Salvia guaranitica.indd \(wisc.edu\)](#)

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c834>