



Garden Notes

GN 159

LAMIACEAE: THE MINT FAMILY IN THE FAIR OAKS HORTICULTURE CENTER WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE

Many mint family plants make good water efficient plant choices. The family includes several culinary herbs that grow well in our climate and are often included in water-wise gardens (basil, mint, rosemary, lavender, hyssop, marjoram, oregano) in addition to many sages and other common garden plants.

Look for these shared qualities:

- Square stems
- Opposite leaves
- Tiny flowers
- Volatile oils in their leaves and stems, which gives them their entrancing fragrances and flavors (and usually makes them deer resistant as well)

SALVIAS IN THE WEL – commonly called sages

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	LOOK FOR IT HERE
<i>Salvia</i> 'Amistad'	Sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White sage	Native plant garden
<i>Salvia</i> 'Bee's Bliss'	Bee's bliss salvia	Native plant garden
<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>	Germander sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Whirly Blue'	Whirley blue Cleveland sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Winnifred Gilman'	Winnifred Gilman Cleveland sage	Native plant garden
<i>Salvia</i> 'Dara's Choice'	Dara's choice sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Blaze'	Autumn sage	Front perimeter
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Hot Lips'	Autumn sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Lipstick'	Autumn sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Raspberry'	Autumn sage	Mediterranean raised bed
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Red Lady'	Autumn sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Sparkle'	Autumn sage	Front perimeter
<i>Salvia leucantha</i> 'Santa Barbara'	Mexican bush sage	Front perimeter
<i>Salvia nemerosa</i>	Sage	Perennial walk
<i>Salvia spathacea</i> 'Las Pilitas'	Las Pilitas hummingbird sage	Native plant garden

OTHER LAMIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	LOOK FOR IT HERE
<i>Agastache</i> x 'Ava'	Ava's hummingbird mint	Perennial walk
<i>Lavandula</i> 'Goodwin Creek'	Goodwin Creek lavender	Perennial walk
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	English lavender	Common variety garden
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> 'Hidcote Blue'	English lavender	Common variety garden
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Spanish lavender	Mediterranean raised bed
<i>Lepechinia hastata</i>	Pitcher sage	Front perimeter, Mediterranean
<i>Nepeta</i> x <i>faassenii</i> 'Walkers Low'	Catmint	Common variety garden
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian sage	Common variety garden
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Ken Taylor'	Rosemary	Perennial walk
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Mozart'	Rosemary	Perennial walk
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus'	Prostrate rosemary	Mediterranean raised bed
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Tuscan Blue'	Rosemary	Perennial walk
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's ears	Common variety garden
<i>Teucrium ackermanii</i>	Germander	Perennial walk
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Germander sage	Perennial walk
<i>Teucrium cossonii majoricum</i>	Fruity germander	Perennial walk
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i> 'Azureum'	Bush germander	Common variety garden, Mediterranean garden
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i> 'Pink Chintz'	Creeping thyme	Common variety garden

For more information on plants included in the *Lamiaceae* family, good starting resources are:

- The Plant List (2013) Version 1.1 Published online; www.theplantlist.org/1.1/browse/A/Lamiaceae/
- Calflora: Information on California plants for education, research and conservation. [web application]. 2014. Berkeley, California: The Calflora Database [a non-profit organization]. www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/specieslist.cgi?where-family=Lamiaceae

A good reference book on 150 salvias that grow well in California is:

- *The New Book of Salvias: Sages for Every Garden*, Betsy Clebsch, Timber Press; 2nd edition (April 15, 2008)