

Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*): A low-growing perennial for the well-drained shade garden

Description: Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*), also called Roemer's Sage, is native to the Texas Hill Country where it grows in rocky shaded areas. It is a small red-flowered perennial in the mint family that grows up to 18 inches tall. It has rounded scallop-edged leaves that are 1 to 2 inches wide, with small hairs on them making the leaves feel soft to the touch. Cedar Sage is adapted to grow in the shade of Ashe Juniper trees, commonly referred to as mountain cedars, hence the name "Cedar Sage".

Flowers and Fruit: Cedar Sage has crimson red flowers that are 1 to 1.5 inches wide on 2 to 3 inch racemes, adding sparkle to the shady areas of the garden. The flowers appear in spring and early summer.

Planting sites: Cedar Sage can be planted in dappled shade to part shade to full shade in many types of soils. It should be provided good drainage; avoid planting it in areas where it may experience "wet feet" or it may rot. It may also be grown in pots.

Watering Instructions: Like most Texas natives, Cedar Sage will need supplemental water during the first growing season. After it is established, it will thrive with existing rainfall. It is drought tolerant.

Comments: Cedar Sage is a well-behaved garden citizen, gradually growing larger and occasionally spreading by seed. It can tolerate some sun, but should not be planted in areas receiving more than a half day of sun. It maintains a rosette during the winter. Consider using it as an alternative to exotic impatiens species.

Look for the NICE! Plant of the Season signs and information sheets on your next visit to a participating North Texas nursery. Thank you for using native plants in your landscapes.

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Meetings are the 4th Thursday in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep & Oct, TWU's ACT building 6:30 pm, 2nd floor.



Photo courtesy of Andy & Sally Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center