



# SEED COLLECTION REQUEST

**Common Name:** Blue Sage

**Scientific Name:** *Salvia azurea*

## Morphological Characteristics:

- Perennial, native, warm-season forb
- Stout, upright, hairy stem grows 3-6 feet branching in the upper half.
- Lower leaves are lanceolate to oblanceolate up to 4 inches long with serrate margins. These leaves often fall away during flowering.
- Upper leaves are linear and much smaller than lower leaves
- Flowers are ½ - 1 inch and vary from dark to pale blue. Flowers in clusters forming long, slender, terminal spike-like raceme
- Found on dry rocky, clayey, or sandy soils of prairies, plains, flats, oak-cedar slopes, and openings and edges of chaparral and pine-hardwood forests
- Provides nectar source for bumble bees and other pollinators



## Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards:

- 342- Critical Area Planting
- 550- Range Planting
- 647- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
- 327- Conservation Cover

Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

## Center Requesting Seed:

USDA-NRCS James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center  
3950 FM 1292 Suite 100  
Knox City, TX 79529

## How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos.
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head, then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper bag or seed envelope.
  - a. Please do not use a plastic bag
  - b. Moisture will collect and mold seed.
4. Collect seed from a minimum of 30-50 plants.

5. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes:
  - a. Collector's name, number of plants collected
  - b. Location (county, city, highway, and GPS coordinates)
  - c. Site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
6. Complete NRCS-ECS-580, plant collection information form, and mail with collected seed to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the collection.

**Helpful Tips:**

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile.

**Other Photos:**



*Helping People Help the Land*

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