**2018 WY State Master Gardeners Conference**  
April 14, 2018  
  
**“Sensational Salvias and Their Garden Companions"**  
presentation by  
David Salman  
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High Country Gardens  
Santa Fe, NM

Photos by David Salman (except as noted)

**2. Santa Fe is has an arid climate and moderately cold USDA zone 6 winters** at an elevation of 7,000 ft. During the growing season the warm to hot days are followed by cool nights.

**3. This region of northern New Mexico is located at the intersection of four different bioregions** of the country; the western Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado Plateau and the Chihuahuan desert

**4. Our gardens and landscapes need to be more than just beautiful.** They need to be more resource efficient and habitat friendly.

Garden organically

* NEVER use systemic pesticides as they poison pollinators that feed on the flowers
* Prepare and maintain your soil organically
* Prolonged use of chemical fertilizers harms the soil’s fauna
* A healthy living soil grows better, more resilient plants

**5. What is a Salvia?**

* The name *Salvia* ("salviya") derives from the latin *salvere* ("to feel well and healthy, health, heal); referring to the herb's healing properties. The first description of the plant comes from Roman times.
* The genus is the largest in the Mint family (Lamiaceae) with current estimates of approximately 700 species and subspecies.
* The genus is distributed throughout the Old World and the Americas, with three distinct regions of greatest diversity: Central and South America; Central Asia and Mediterranean ; and Eastern Asia.
* Salvia are also found in South Africa and the United States.

(Information sourced from Wikipedia)

**6. The Unique Pollination of Salvia**

- This photo illustrates the unusual pollination mechanics known as “Staminal lever mechanism” that deposits pollen onto the backs of bees to facilitate the transfer of the pollen to the next flower.

- It is believed that the lever mechanism is a key factor in the speciation and diversity of this large genus. (Photo from Wikipedia)

**7. Cold Hardy Native Salvia**

Salvia greggii ‘Furman’s Red’ -

* A very cold hardy selection, Plant Select 2005 winner

Salvia x ‘Maraschino’ -

* A fall blooming hybrid that like some afternoon shade

**8. Salvia ‘Ultra Violet’ (Salvia greggii x lycioides)**

* A very cold hardy garden hybrid between Salvia greggii and Salvia lycioides
* Discovered by Lauren & Scott Ogden in their Ft. Collins garden

**9. Salvia ‘Dark Shadows’ (Hybrid Sage)**

An unreleased garden hybrid of Salvia Raspberry Delight® coming available in spring 2019.

Cold hardiness is likely to be quite good but untested (Santa Fe doesn’t get very cold anymore).

**photo caption:** Growing with Bouteloua gracilis ‘Blonde Ambition’ PP# 22,048

**10. Cold Hardy Native Salvia**

Salvia microphylla ‘Hot Lips’ ↑

* Much more cold hardy than commonly listed
* Flowers go to mostly red in the summer heat

Salvia greggii ‘Gold Hardy Pink’ (also known as 'Superba')

* An old cultivar with good cold hardiness

**11. Salvia x Raspberry Delight®** (Salvia greggii x Salvia microphylla)

* Very long blooming
* Exceptional cold hardiness thriving in Denver for more than 15 years
* Introduced by David Salman in 2000

**photo caption:** Growing with Salvia reptans →

**12. Tips for overwintering less cold hardy native species**

To improve the survival of the colorful, but less cold hardy Salvia, the following techniques are helpful;

* Spring plant to establish a robust root system prior to winter.
* Plant the crown more deeply.
* Find a warmer microclimate such as on south facing wall or against the south side of a large rock.
* Don’t cut back the plant until late spring to improve cold hardiness.
* Cover with insulating pine needles to protect the plants from sudden temperature swings.

**photo caption:** A young plant covered with pine needles →

**13. Tips for overwintering less cold hardy native species**

* Grow them in a container.
* Overwinter them in the garage or greenhouse.

**photo caption**: Salvia chaemadryoides and Salvia Raspberry Delight® →

**14. Salvia pachyphylla (Giant Mojave Sage)**

* A native from the mountains of southern California with evergreen foliage
* Summer blooming for at least 2 months
* One of the very best hummingbird attracting plants
* Plant Select® 2005 (Worth testing in WY)

**15. Salvia dorrii (Great Basin Sage)**

Highly attractive to hummingbirds and bees

These are the best cold hardy native CA sages for cold climates

**photo captions:** Growing with Hymenoxys acaulis v. ivesiana (Sundancer Daisy), Covered with honey bees

**16. Salvia azurea (Prairie Sage)**

* A native perennial that lives on the prairie
* Invaluable to all types of pollinators
* Plant it with other prairie natives
* Does well in all soil types including clay

**photo caption:** A Rufus hummingbird sipping the flowers

**17. Salvia azurea (Prairie Sage)**  
- with other prairie companions; Solidago (Golden Rod), Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem Grass)

**18. Salvia reptans (Grass Leaf Sage, West TX form)**

* Quite cold hardy
* Blooms in September
* Semi-dwarf form ‘Autumn Sapphire’ from Plant Select® 2016

**19. Companion Plants for Native Salvia**

My front yard in NM - Arctostaphylos ‘Ponchita’ (Hardy Manzanita), Salvia greggii ‘Furman’s Red’, Salvia dorrii , Penstemon ‘Blue Lips’

**20. Companion Plants for Native Salvia**

**photo caption:** Salvia reptans (West Texas form), Salvia Raspberry Delight®, Panicam virgatum (Prairie Switch Grass), Caryopteris ‘Dark Knight’ (Blue Mist Spirea)

**21. Companion Plants for Native Salvia**

**photo caption**: Salvia Raspberry Delight®, Lavandula angustifolia ‘Sharon Roberts’ (English Lavender), Yucca neomexicana (NM Yucca), Salviia greggii ‘Furman’s Red’ (TX Bush Sage), Pinus thumbergii ‘Thunderhead’, Vernonia lindheimeri v. leucophyllum (West TX Ironweed), Agave havardiana (Havard’s Century Plant

**22. Companion Plants for Native Salvia**

**photo caption:** Eriogonum umbellatum ‘Shasta Sulfur’ (Sulfur Buckwheat), Salvia pachyphylla ‘Blue Flame’ (Giant Mojave Sage), Salvia daghestanica (Dwarf Silver Sage). Penstemon psuedospectabilis (Desert Sage)

**23. Native Grasses with Native Salvia**

Bouteloua gracillis ‘Blonde Ambition’ PP# 22,048

**photo caption:** with Salvia pachyphylla and Raspberry Delight®

**24. Succulent Companions for Native Salvia**

* Yucca baccata (Banana Yucca) with an assortment of native plants
* Yucca glauca (Plains Yucca)

**25. Old World Salvia**  
Sages from Europe and Asia

* Generally quite cold hardy (to USDA zone 4)
* Grow well in a wide variety of soil types including clay
* Are an excellent source of “natural nectar’ to attract honey bees and butterflies
* Resistant to browsing deer and rabbits
* Generally herbaceoous (die back to the ground in winter)

**photo caption:** Salvia superba ‘May Night’→

**26. Salvia superba ‘May Night’(European Sage)**

- One of the all time great introductions originally from Germany.

**27. Salvia superba ‘Little Night’ PPAF (Dwarf European Sage)**

* A dwarf form of ‘May Night’
* Half the size of ‘May Night’ making it useful in smaller gardens
* Use as an edging plant at the front of the border or along paths and walkways
* Discovered by David Salman in a Salt Lake City garden

**photo caption:** Growing with Oenothera fremontii ‘Shimmer’ →

**28. Salvia superba ‘Pink’ (Pink European Sage)**

**29. Salvia daghestanica Platinum ® (Dwarf Silver Leaf Sage)**

* Incredible silver foliage with large true blue flowers
* Grows in a wide range of soil type and loves clay
* Late to wake up from winter dormancy so be patient in the spring

**30. Salvia daghestanica Platinum ® (Dwarf Silver Leaf Sage)**

**photo caption:** With Hymenoxys scaposa (Thrift Leaf Sundancer Daisy), With Artemisia versicolor ‘Seafoam’

**31. Stachys lavandulifolius (Cotton Candy Lamb’s Ear)** - a clay lover that blooms at the same time as Salvia daghestanica

**32. Salvia moorcroftiana x indica (Shangri-La Hybrid Sage)**

* Plant Select winner 2017
* Long blooming with handsome large, gray -green foliage

**33. Salvia officinalis ‘Minimus’ (Little leaf Culinary Sage)**

* Aromatic gray-green foliage
* Stunning deep blue spring flowers
* Used as a culinary spice

**34. Salvia jurisicii (Yugoslavian Sage)**

* A showy late spring bloomer
* Xeric
* Good cold hardiness
* Unusual upside down flowers

**photo captions:** Growing with Aethionema schistosum (Fragrant Stonecrest), Growing with Artemisia filifolia (Sand Sage)

**35. Companion Plants for Old World Salvia -** Some of my favorite companions for European Sages include:

* Achillea ‘Moonshine’ (Yarrow)
* Achillea fillipendulina ‘Coronation Gold’ (Yarrow)
* Nepeta faassenii ‘Select Blue’ (Catmint)
* Nepeta ‘Walker’s Low’ (Catmint)
* Centranthus ruber ‘Coccineus’
* Allium (ornamental Onion) - spring and summer bloomers
* Tanacetum densum v. amani (Partridge Feather)
* Oenothera macrocarpa (Evening Primrose)
* Leucanthemum (Shasta Daisy)

**photo caption:** Salvia superba ‘May Night’ with Allium at Denver Botanic Gardens →

**36. Companion Plants for European Sages**

**photo caption:** Salvia nemerosa ‘Blue Hill’ growing with Allium (Ornamental Onion) and Nepeta ‘Walker’s Low’ at the Chicago Botanic Garden

**37. Companion Plants for European Sages**

**photo caption:** A Santa Fe landscape with Salvia officinalis (Culinary Sage) in center, Stachys byzantina (Lamb’s Ear), Nepeta ‘Walker’s Low’ , red flowered Helianthemum nummularium (Rock Rose)

**38. Companion Plants for European Sages**

**photo caption:** Salvia officinalis ‘Bergartten’ (bottom) with Scutellaria resinosa (Prairie Skullcap),Penstemon pinifolius ‘Compactum’ (Pine Leaf Beardtongue)

**39. Tender Perennial Salvia for beds and containers**

* Salvia coccineus ‘Lady in Red’
* Salvia farinacea ‘Victoria Blue’ (Mealy Cup Sage)

**40. Tender Perennial Salvia for beds and containers**  
 ● Salvia x ‘Wendy’s Wish’ PP#27,505 (photo by White Flower Farm)

**41. Looking forward to a new growing season**  
**photo caption**: A double rainbow over my front courtyard after a good summer rain

**Notes:**

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