

XERISCAPE
NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Leucophyllum **Texas Sage**

Texas sages are among the most reliable and fool-proof of the low water use plants available in Arizona. Fifteen years ago, there was only one option for Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) available local nurseries. The past few years have brought many new species and varieties into cultivation. These evergreen shrubs are native to Texas and Mexico, and perform well in our deserts with little maintenance. These shrubs require full sun and good drainage. This genus is now available in a wide range of mature sizes, and when the proper Texas sage is selected, **no** pruning is required...Selective pruning can be performed if desired to maintain shape (do not shear). All of the Texas sages tolerate temperatures down to 10 degrees Fahrenheit, as well as thrive in our summer heat.

Leucophyllums can be used in a wide range of landscape situations, including focal points, visual and wind screening, accents, and wildlife habitat. With the onset of the summer monsoons, leucophyllum explodes in burst of color, giving it the nickname barometer plant. They can survive on little to not supplemental watering except during periods of extreme drought, and can die if overwatered. While some Texas sages mature at 6 or 8 feet, listed below are smaller varieties that are suitable for home landscapes.

Leucophyllum candidum

'Silver Cloud'™ (Silver Cloud Sage)

This trademarked plant, with its silvery foliage and deep purple flowers, provides contrasting color and texture with other shades of green in the landscape. This sage grows to 4½ feet tall and wide and has a dense form. This particular leucophyllum is especially sensitive to overwatering.

Leucophyllum candidum

Thunder Cloud™ One of the most popular Texas Rangers, it has a tight, compact form with stiff branches, growing slowly to only 3 feet tall and wide. Its silver-white foliage provides a stunning backdrop for the deep purple flowers. Thunder Cloud™ blooms repeatedly and consistently during the summer and fall. It is also likely to rot out if over-watered.

Leucophyllum laevigatum

Chihuahuan Sage

The Chihuahuan sage has a loose, open growth habit with a unique angular branching pattern, small, dark leaves, and masses of fragrant lavender flowers that attract hummingbirds. This sage commonly grows about 4 feet tall by 5 feet wide.

Leucophyllum zygophyllum

Blue Ranger

This petite selection tops out at about 3 feet tall and wide. It has a rather soft silhouette, grey-green foliage, and blue flowers. This species has distinctive cupped leaves that easily identify it.