Mealy Blue Sage (Salvia farinacea Benth) is a Texas wildflower. When you are out driving and you pass fields of blue, you are enjoying the beautiful Mealy Blue Sage. Resist the temptation to dig it up in the wild for it does not transplant well. Mealy Blue Sage is easily found in the nursery trade and is a wonderful addition to your garden. This plant is deer resistant and is a source of nectar used by hummingbirds and bees. This perennial will live in a sunny area of your garden for many years. Plant it in well-drained soil and water it during times of drought.

After it has finished its first flush of blooms, cut about 6 inches off the top and it will reward you with many more blooms and keep a nice compact shape. This plant is trouble free and blooms from April to frost. After it has been damaged by the first freeze you can cut it back to the ground and by April it will be fresh and blooming again!

If you like the look of Mealy Blue Sage but want something taller, you could use Salvia Indigo Spires. This hybrid plant grows 3-5 feet in height and is a real butterfly magnet. It will tolerate some shade and does best with regular watering. Both of these blue sages make a beautiful show in mass plantings.

Planted with a plant of a contrasting color like a red Salvia greggii, the bright gold of Black-Eyed Susan (Rudebeckia hirta), or the orange plumed Mexican Honeysuckle (Justicia spicigera) makes a stunning combination. Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas?

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