

# NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

## *Lindheimer Chapter*

### PLANT OF THE MONTH JUNE, 2023

#### TROPICAL SAGE, *SALVIA COCCINEA*



Tropical Sage also known as Scarlet Sage, Blood Sage, Red Sage, and Indian Fire makes a good addition to a wildflower garden. Its red, pink and rarely white tubular flowers bloom from February to October and form an interrupted spike on a square stem. Its flowers are a nectar source for hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. A native of the Edwards Plateau, it is also found in from east and south Texas to South Carolina to Florida down to Mexico. It grows naturally in dry or moist well-drained soils and requires low to medium water, sun to shade. Given good conditions, it can be both an annual (coldest areas) and perennial shrub 1 - 3' high, taller in better soil and water conditions.

Once established, Tropical Sage requires little care. It is effective in a perennial garden. It has pungent foliage that makes it fairly deer resistant. Trim periodically to keep it bushy. The plant can form a groundcover if it is mowed on the highest setting from the time it greens up in the spring until August. At that time allow the plants to flower and freely reseed until frost. It can also be propagated by division. After frost, cut back the dead stalks and let leaves collect in the stubble for winter mulch. It will naturally die back to a rosette in the winter.

Tropical Sage is a NPSOT Lindheimer Chapter NICE! 2023 Summer Native Plant selection

Text by Leon Dominick & Sally Wasowski. Photos by Kay Jenkins, NPSOT Joseph Marcus, LBJ Wildflower Center