



FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Pitcher sage, Prairie sage
Botanical Name:	Salvia azurea grandiflora
Family:	Lamiaceae (Mint)
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Perennial Flower
Season of Bloom:	Late summer to fall

Pitcher sage or azure blue salvia is native to the prairies of the Central United States. In the garden setting, its tall lanky form compliments the back of the border, making it a fine choice against the brick walls of the King's Garden. The flower color is described as azure-blue, sky blue, clear blue, or bluest-blue. Blue flowers are an important component of Marian Coffin's design for the King's Garden, with pitcher sage blooming in late summer and fall when other blue-flowering plants have faded.

'Grandiflora' is a selection of the prairie native *Salvia pitcheri* chosen for its showy flowers. This plant is tolerant of dry sites, so plant in full sun, avoiding clay soils. It is grown as an annual in zone 4 and colder as it will flower the first year from seed. It is the hardiest salvia species found in North America. Pinching the stems back in June will produce a shorter plant that is less likely to need staking.

The grayish-green foliage is a pleasing compliment to the flowers and has a pleasant scent when rubbed or crushed. This aroma is disliked by deer. Add pitcher sage to the garden to attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

