

# Grower's Facts

W.H.PERRON 



63-4461-010

## P erovskia

*Perovskia atriplicifolia* Blue Steel

**PLANTATION: Indoor:** It is suggested to sow 8 weeks before planting outside. Sow seeds in cell packs or 5 cm pots, press into soil and barely cover. Cover the seeds with vermiculite to improve moisture for uniform germination. Keep the temperature around 18-22 °C. Germinate is in 4-8 days. Plants will flower faster and with stronger stems when grown under high light conditions. It is light accumulator for flowering. Will flower the first year, when started indoor. This variety does not need vernalization to flower.

**Outdoor:** Plant the seeds in Mid Summer - Early Fall.

**SOIL: Indoor:** A well-drained, porous sowing media is best to prevent over watering.

**Outdoor:** Any soil.

**CULTURALS PRACTICES:** These plants are quite easy to grow. They tolerate poor soil, drought, and a wide range of soil pH. Although Russian sage is extremely drought tolerant, new transplants will need regular water. The biggest maintenance requirement of Russian sage is pruning. The flowers form on new wood -- branches that grew during the current season. In warmer regions, deadheading may result in a second flush of bloom. Otherwise, leave the flower heads for winter interest. Prune Russian sage plants back to about 15 cm in the spring. Do this just as the lower leaf buds are beginning to open, but before new growth fully starts. Once established, the plants can start to spread by runners. They can become quite aggressive if you do not remove the new plants, roots and all, fairly soon. These offshoots do not transplant easily. It is recommended you divide plants every four - six years to rejuvenate them and to cut back on their ability to spread. Older plants do not divide well.