

Mediterranean Sage Fact Sheet

Salvia aethiopis

Lamiaceae Family



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Distinguishing Features:

- 1 **Flowers:** Flowers appear in clusters and are white to yellowish-white. They are 2-lobed.
- 2 **Seeds:** Seeds are housed in the flowering stems, which break off in fall to act as tumbleweeds, dispersing thousands of seeds.
- 3 **Leaves:** Leaves are greyish-green and covered in wooly hairs. Stem leaves alternate and are smaller than rosette leaves. They are also aromatic when crushed.
- 4 **Flowering Time:** Mediterranean Sage flowers bloom between June and July. Seeds are produced in late summer and fall.
- 5 **Life cycle:** Mediterranean Sage is a Biennial that produces a rosette on its first year before flowering and producing seeds during its second.

Impacts:

- Mediterranean Sage rapidly takes over any habitat it is introduced to, crowding out native plants and decreasing biodiversity.
- Mediterranean Sage, while not particularly toxic, is unpalatable to most grazing animals.
- Mediterranean sage tends to form dense monocultures that decrease the diversity and health of a rangeland habitat.



L.L. Berry, Bugwood.org

Control:

- Mechanical control methods (pulling, cultivation, etc.) are effective on small infestations. Ensure complete removal of the root system, or at the very least, cut off the taproot 2-3 inches below the soil.
- Biological control such as grazing is not possible due to the plants' unpalatable taste to most livestock. Traditional biocontrol however, has proven effective in the control of Mediterranean Sage.
- Chemical control is effective against Mediterranean Sage primarily if applied prior to seed production while plant is in rosette stage. According to the University of Nevada at Reno, herbicide application can be made more effective with the addition of a surfactant to the mix prior to spraying.



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