INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Clary Sage (*Salvia sclarea*)

Have You Seen This Plant?

Description

- Biennial or short-lived, perennial herb native to the Mediterranean and Central Asia.
- Strongly scented, especially when crushed.
- Forms basal rosettes of hairy leaves in the first year then generates branching, hairy, square stems up to 120 cm in the second year.
- Leaves are hairy, greyish green, and oppositely arranged with a wrinkly appearance and toothed or double toothed margins.
- Flowers are showy and arranged in whorls along the end of the branches. Petals are fused forming a purple upper lip and whitish lower lip. A pair of white to lilac to pink bracts accompanies each whorl.
- Flowers develop into oval-shaped 4 nutlets, each containing 1 seed.

Clary sage in bloom
Photo: Zeynel Cebci

Primary Threats: Clary sage outcompetes native plants and can invade rangelands. Decreases wildlife forage and habitat and reduces native biodiversity. Potential to escape cultivation and take over disturbed areas.

Mature leaf
Photo: Stefan Lefnaer

Biology & Spread

- Reproduces via seed.
- Flowers in July to August with seeds ripening by September.
- Overwinters as rosettes and new growth continues in the spring.
- Drought tolerant but cannot tolerate sustained high temperatures or humidity.
- Clary sage is commonly cultivated in other parts of the world and has been known to escape gardens.

For more information:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants

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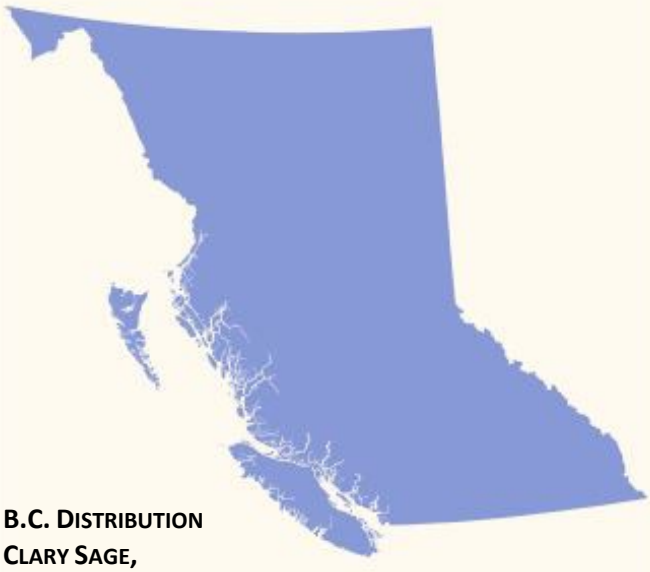
Clary sage (*Salvia sclarea*)



B.C. Distribution
Clary Sage,
January 2026

Habitat

- Clary sage prefers sandy or gravelly soils with medium moisture and good drainage. Tends to thrive in completely exposed areas with either full sun or partial shade. Has been known to invade meadows, roadsides, and other disturbed areas.

Distribution & Status

- Not a regulated weed under the BC *Weed Control Act.*
- Not yet known to occur in BC but is present in Washington state.
- Management goal is preventing establishment in BC.

Flower close-up
Photo: Agnieszka Kwiecien

Report Invasive Species

Download the App!

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

What Can You Do?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Choose** non-invasive *Salvia* species for your garden
- **Check** ornamental seed mixes for contamination
- **Remove** from your garden by hand-pulling or digging

Clary sage rosette
Photo: Stefan Lefnaer

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