INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Mediterranean Sage (*Salvia aethiopis*)

Have You Seen This Plant?

Description

- Biennial or short-lived perennial that is native to Europe and Asia.
- Mature plants are erect with square stems, growing up to 90 cm.
- Soft, woolly hairs are present on young leaves, leaf undersides, and stems. Hairs are less prominent as plants mature.
- Mature leaves distinctly veined and oppositely arranged on the stem. Leaves increasingly smaller towards the stem apex.
- Foliage emits a strong scent when crushed.
- Flowers appear in whorls at branch tips in clusters of 2 to 6. Flowers are white to slightly yellow; 2 upper petals form a curved beak and 3 lower petals form lobes that are wider on the outer end.
- Rosette can be up to 120 cm diameter; grey-green leaves with irregular margins covered in fine, woolly hairs.
- Has a stout taproot.

Mediterranean sage in bloom
Eric Coombs

Primary Threats: Invades pastures and rangelands where it is unpalatable to livestock and displaces forage plants. Forms dense monocultures that reduce native biodiversity.

Close-up of rosette
Krzysztof Ziarnek

Biology & Spread

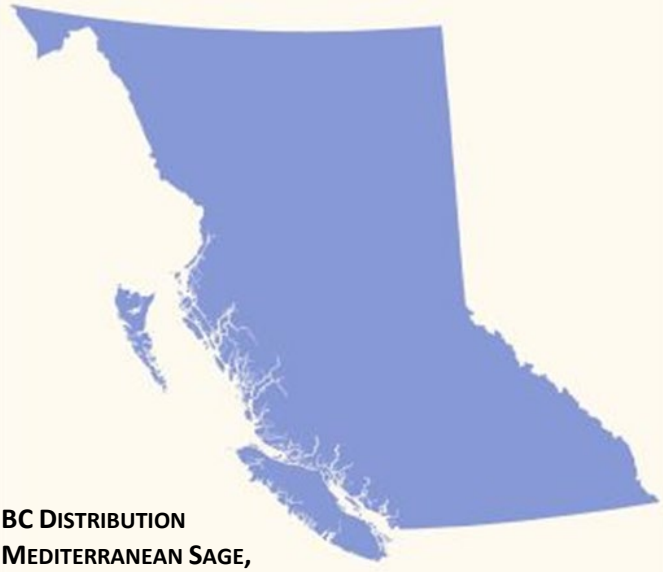
- Blooming occurs from June to August.
- Reproduces via seed with each plant producing up to 100,000 seeds per growing season.
- Seeds may stay viable for up to 10 years.
- Stalks break off and act as a tumbleweed, dispersing seeds as they move with the wind.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA

January 2026

Mediterranean Sage (*Salvia aethiopis*)



BC Distribution
Mediterranean Sage,
January 2026

Habitat

- Commonly invades disturbed areas, dry pastures, rangelands, roadsides and agronomic crops.
- Prefers dry, well drained soil and south-facing slopes.
- Typically found in degraded sagebrush plant communities.

Distribution & Status

- Not yet known to occur in BC but is present in some areas in northwestern United States.
- Management goal is preventing establishment in BC.

Bolted mediterranean sage
Phil Marin

Close-up of flower
Stefan Lefnaer

Report Invasive Species

Download the App!

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

What Can You Do?

- **REPORT** new sightings.
- **Maintain** healthy pastures & grasslands to prevent establishment.
- **Plant** native plant species to increase ground cover.
- **Clean** machinery and equipment when moving from site to site.
- **Treat** Mediterranean sage before disturbing a site with digging, mowing, or machinery

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