



**Salvia apiana**  
White Sage

Shrub

Sun

Little summer water

Origin: California chaparral

Salvia means “to save” in Latin. Apios means “bee” so the name Salvia apiana could be translated as “save for the bees.” Its flowers do help bees produce a flavorful honey. White sage forms a handsome evergreen clump of bright white green foliage three feet tall and five wide. The broad, silvery white leaves are three to four inches long and pungent especially when brushed or rubbed. They are luminous in the evening. Spring flower stalks rise two or more feet above the foliage. The flowers are white and occasionally tinted with lavender. White Sage does not need summer water to keep a neat appearance. Prune down the flower stalks to new buds to keep the plant from becoming leggy. Combine it with dark green shrubs such as Ceanothus for contrast.