

## ***Salvia splendens*** **Cover Girl**

Scarlet Sage, Bedding Sage

### **Culture guide**

**Uses:**

Plant for bedding or border, summer pot plant

**Exposure:**

Sun - Partial shade

**Garden height:**

7" / 18 cm

**Crop time:**

6-7 weeks

**Sow time:**

February-April for flowering in pots from April onwards; June for flowering in pots from August onwards

**Sowing method:**

2-3 seeds per plug, sowing directly into pot is recommended

**Germination:**

12-15 days at 72-75 °F (22-24 °C). Light is required for germination.

**Growing On:**

Transplant plugs after 5-6 weeks. Grow on at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C).

**Media:**

Use a well-drained, growing perennial substrate with 0-15 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e. g. bark, wood fibres, perlite), 1-3 kg/m<sup>3</sup> complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.5.

**Temperature:**

Grow at 21-24 °C during daytime and at 13-16 °C during night. To the harden the plants for selling the temperature can be decreased to 12-14 °C. *S. splendens* does not tolerate frost.

**Fertilization:**

Moderate-high fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 200-250 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency (above pH 6.0) apply iron-chelate 1-2 times. The roots are sensitive to high salt levels in substrates. Avoid high fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly.