



GREEN SIDE UP  
BROWN SIDE  
DOWN™

### **"Salvia Madness in the Fall Garden"** with Jan Smithen

If your garden has the late season "blahs," think about adding perennial salvias. They come into their best bloom during the late part of the year. Salvias just love heat, and as long as you keep them dead-headed, they will continue to perform into winter.

I will share with you some of my favorites with the hope that they will give

you pleasure in the coming fall months. **Salvia 'indigo spires'** is an unforgettable sight when you weave it up through the back side of a rose. A good six feet tall and three feet wide at maturity, it leans on its companions and sends its deep violet-blue flower wands looping out and up through them. In autumn, these elongate and the entire plant takes on an indigo blue cast.

Almost as tall, but more upright and compact, is **Salvia 'Purple Majesty'**. The shorter flower raceme bears larger individual two-lipped flowers that are a rich true purple. They appear to glow against the plants own Coneflowers. Both **'Indigo Spires'** and **'Purple Majesty'** need full sun, enriched soil and regular garden water.

Gardeners who see **Salvia 'Van Houttei'** in bloom begin immediately to plot how to use it in their own gardens. No matter how tall and wide it might get - a good

five by five feet- these are jewels. They rise out of a well-clothed light green plant from August on. **'Van Houttei'** gives its best in light shade with regular irrigation, well-amended soil and a good layer of top mulch.

A lower growing and bushy salvia for sunny places is **S. x jamensis 'Sierra San Antonio'**. At three by two feet, it fits into the smallest garden and blooms from early summer until really cold weather. The blooms are peach colored with a soft yellow lower lip which the eye reads as an unusual sandstone color in the garden. Mass them to the side or in front of any plant with reddish foliage or flowers. This plant relishes cutting back by half once or twice during the growing season and needs the same well-amended soil and regular water.

*Jan Smithen is a regular contributor to Arboretum News.*

**Visit the CAF Website at [www.the-arboretum.com](http://www.the-arboretum.com)**



#### **California Arboretum Foundation**

*A non-profit corporation benefiting  
THE ARBORETUM of Los Angeles County*

301 North Baldwin Avenue  
Arcadia, CA 91007-2697

(626) 447-8207

Gift Shop: (626) 447-8751 Open to the public 10-5pm

Arboretum Information: (626) 821-3222

Plant Advice: (626) 821-3239

#### **CAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Judith S. Morse, Executive Director

*Have you received your September, October and  
November Calendar of Events? If not, call us!  
Look for your next calendar toward the end of November.*

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Arcadia, CA  
No. 528



**Dated Material**



Smithen, Jan. 1997. "Green side up brown side down." *Arboretum News* 1997:fall,

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/157183>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/147958>

**Holding Institution**

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

**Sponsored by**

Los Angeles Arboretum

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.