

# Meadow clary

*Salvia pratensis* L.

Mint family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Has characteristic square stem of mint family
- ❑ Flowers blue to violet with small green bracts
- ❑ Flower petals divided into arching upper lip and a lower lip, also characteristic of the mint family
- ❑ One to two feet tall with few flowering spikes
- ❑ Leaves have bumpy surface and pointed tip
- ❑ Plant covered by small glandular hairs
- ❑ Plants range from strong odor to no odor



## Biology and ecology

- A fibrous rooted perennial
- Sometimes grown as an ornamental
- Stressed or damaged plants can send up new plants from the remaining roots
- Quite competitive on dry sunny sites and able to live on deeper, less well drained sites as well
- Can hybridize with Clary sage if on same site



## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt or contaminated equip.

*Biological* - None; the closely related Mediterranean sage in Idaho is apparently reduced by a weevil

*Cultural* - Good vegetative cover helps but does not prevent infestation and spread

*Mechanical* - Not believed to withstand regular tillage; pulling cutting and digging are effective only if repeated with diligence to kill regrowth and new plants from roots

*Chemical* - Several effective at label rates if a penetrating surfactant is used to get through the hairs to the leaf surface and timing is geared to promote translocation to the roots



**Where found** - Less than a total of 10 acres near Waitts Lake, west of Addy and in the Kettle Falls area of Stevens County. May be hybridizing with the biennial Clary sage.