

Clary sage

Salvia sclarea L.

Mint family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Has characteristic square stem of mint family
- ❑ Flower color range from white-pink-blue-purple
- ❑ Flower petals divided into arching upper lip and a lower lip, also characteristic of the mint family
- ❑ Large showy bract under each cluster of flowers
- ❑ Erect plant with many branched flower spikes
- ❑ Plant covered with gland tipped hairs with an odor
- ❑ Leaves large and mostly basal with toothed margin

Biology and ecology

- A tap rooted biennial 20 inches to 6 feet tall
- Sometimes grown as an ornamental and a traditional producer of essential oils used in perfumery, distilling and tobacco flavoring
- First year growth as a fuzzy hairy basal rosette
- Quite competitive on dry sunny sites
- Can hybridize with Meadow clary if on same site

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

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

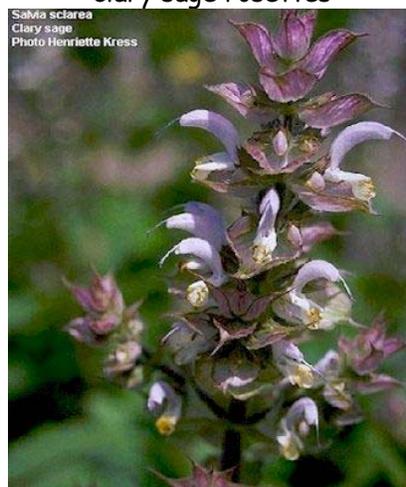
Cultural - Good vegetative cover helps but does not totally prevent spread from adjacent disturbed areas

Mechanical - Will not withstand regular tillage; pulling and digging are effective prior to seed production; cutting may be effective if repeated

Chemical - Several effective at label rates if a penetrating surfactant is used to get through the hairs to the leaf surface



clary sage rosettes



Where found – Only one rangeland site of less than one acre in south central Stevens County has a pure wild Clary sage infestation but other sites of predominately Meadow clary shows indications of hybridization of the two.