

SARATOGA HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

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Salvia regla 'Royal'

This attractive Salvia came to us from Lone Star Nursery of San Antonio, Texas in 1987. The following year, we planted a single plant at our Test Site and began to observe it. The plant has performed admirably during the past 3 seasons surviving cold temperatures of 15 degrees F and heat to 106 degrees F. This cultivar is a seedling selection from a collection in Mexico where this plant is native to the drier areas. We find that it thrives with 1 1/2 gallons of water per week, but will probably grow well with much less water.

Salvia regla 'Royal' can become a large shrub to 12 feet tall by 8 feet wide if left unpruned. Judicious thinning will help maintain a beautiful plant.

The leaves are an attractive medium green with a glossy texture and are heart shaped approximately 1"x1". The bright orange/red tubular flowers are about 2" long and begin to appear in mid July. The heaviest flowering occurs from mid August through the second frost in the fall whereupon the plant begins to drop its leaves.

The plant roots readily from both softwood and hardwood cuttings. If you need a plant in your landscape that has a leaf color that will offset the plants around it and that will provide much late season color, Salvia regla 'Royal' is the one for you.