

Rosemary Tuscan Blue (*Salvia rosmarinus*)

Rosemary serves as both a kitchen herb and an ornamental plant that adds beauty to a perennial garden. Tuscan Blue rosemary grows upright between two and four feet tall, creating a centerpiece in the bed. This variety also features an abundance of small purple flowers in the spring and summer and gray-green foliage year-round. Tuscan Blue rosemary thrives in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 8 - 10.



Plant Care / Watering: Plant rosemary in well-drained garden bed with full sun exposure. It should receive six to eight hours of sunlight daily. Water Tuscan Blue rosemary only when the top 1 to 2 inches of soil feels almost completely dry. Soak the bed deeply with about 1 inch of water so that the top 6 inches of the soil feels moist.

Sprinkle a general-purpose fertilizer around each rosemary plant in the spring. Spread fertilizer 6 inches away from the base of the plant and scratch it in. Water after application.

Cut back rosemary plant immediately after flowering in spring. Shear back by 1/3 of its height and width. Cut out any dead or damaged sprigs. Spread 2 inches of mulch around the plant in fall. Keep mulch 2 inches back from the base of the rosemary.

Replace mulch each year to protect from winter freezes.

References:

Sonoma County Master Gardner <http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu>

<http://www.monrovia.com>