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Sat, 01/19/2013 - 22:34 -- Miss Lady Bug

Pineapple Sage (Salvia elegans) is a gorgeous centerpiece in the herb garden with showy red, trumpet-shaped blooms. The pineapple scent is exotically tropical. Not only is it a wonderful attraction to hummingbirds, butterflies love it as well.

Add leaves and blooms to fruit salads, and sprigs to tropical drinks and teas. The blooms also make delicately flavored vinegars.

Pineapple Sage is a tender perennial, and grown as an annual in the north. Plant outdoors directly in the garden or in containers after the last chance of frost. Sage will thrive in full sun and a rich, well-drained soil with regular watering. Also allow plenty of room to accommodate their 5? height and equal width.

As sage grows, the bottom branches get woody and sprout even more branches. They bloom late in the season, and are hardy in zones 8 to 11. In my zone 9, blooming started in September. Harvest as often as you want, buds will continue to develop on lateral branches for continued beauty. If planted in a container you can bring the herb inside to a sunny location before a freeze, and it will continue to bloom.

Pineapple Sage is easy to propagate with cuttings, and even grew roots in my herbal bouquets.

I hope you will try this showpiece in your herb garden!

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