

One in a series.....

## *Salvia reptans*

*Salvia reptans* is a widely distributed herbaceous perennial native to the mountains of the Trans-Pecos in Texas, and in Mexico and Guatemala. It typically grows in dry stream beds and gravelly soils. It was introduced into horticulture in the 19th century and was previously known as *S. angustifolia* and *S. leptophylla*, both of which refer to the slender leaves. The specific epithet *reptans* refers to the plant's creeping habit.

Wikipedia



A HUMMINGBIRD VISITING

If it's a spring blooming plant you need, then forget about this one. If it's summer and you're looking for color, then forget about this one other than if you want the color green. In late summer however, (August) the plant continues to grow taller and occasionally a small blue bloom or two appears, but by September through the first frost this *Salvia* is literally magnificent, especially swaying in the breeze. The Wikipedia description above about a creeping habit is definitely not the case. It is a very upright growing perennial and

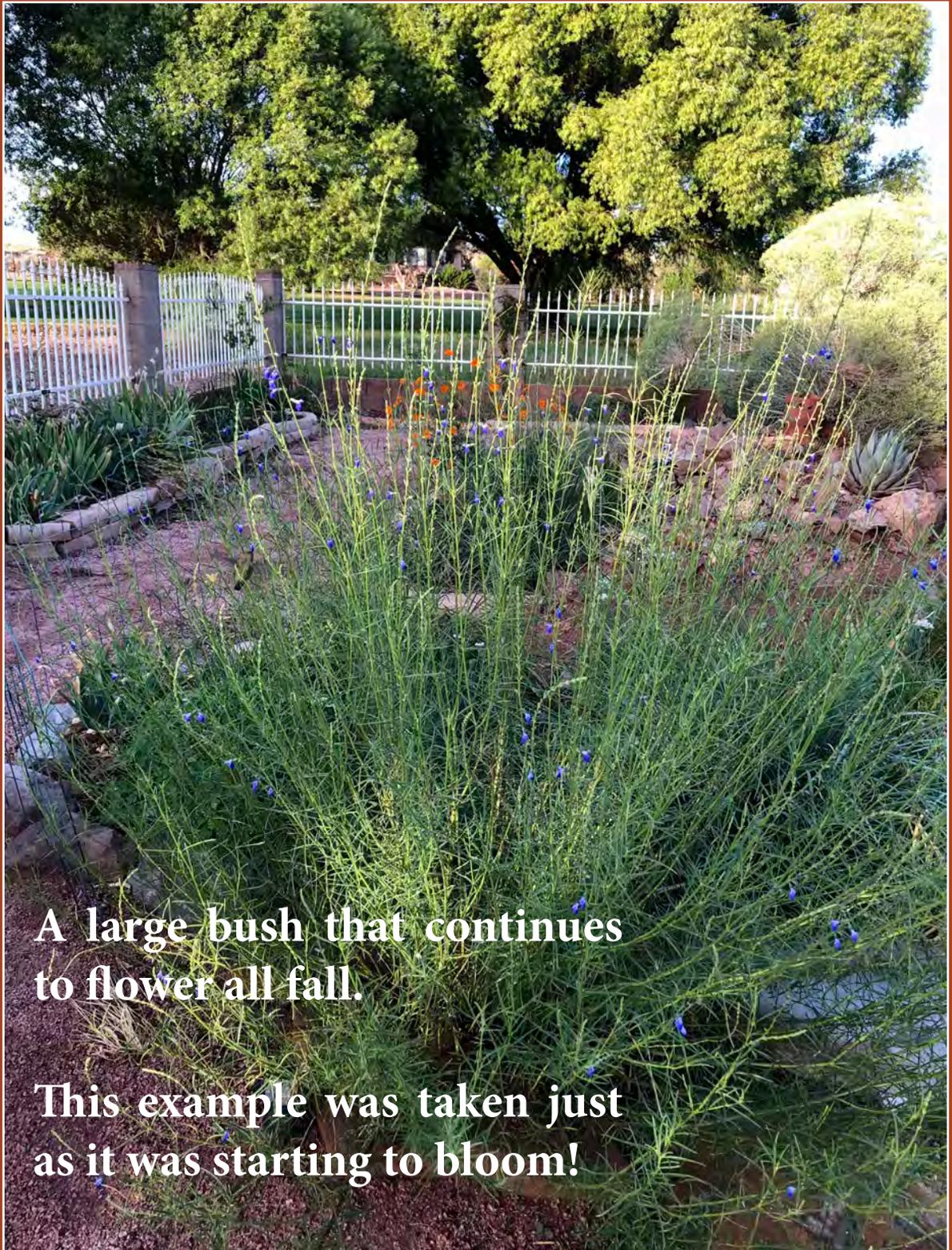
almost from a distance appearing more like a bunch grass with its long arching branches. Eventually they become festooned with myriad numbers of glinting blue/white blooms, albeit small. In full bloom, nothing quite matches it for its airy qualities and many garden visitors.

Bumble bees seem to have a keen interest in its blooms as well as the affection of hummingbirds. Later as it begins making seeds I've notice a number of finches hanging on its branches trying to dislodge a few kernels.

I was quite surprised when I first began cutting off the old branches late in the winter and noticed seeds. Obviously it's self fertile because I had only the one. Early the next year I grew on quite a few seedlings and placed them at various locations in my rock garden and additionally out front in the raised beds. They appear to be rather xeric and have continued to prosper and flower. It became obvious the following spring that near the original mother plant I had a few volunteers growing... as long as they don't interfere with something else, I'll leave them be but, be warned it does seed around ...somewhat.

An absolute must for the dry garden!!





**A large bush that continues  
to flower all fall.**

**This example was taken just  
as it was starting to bloom!**