



Wild Beebalm
Monarda fistulosa

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Bergamot, Wild Bergamot

Description:

This native wildflower produces fragrant foliage and lavender-pink flowers. Blooms in mid summer; best in average to moist soil; needs good air circulation; great for massing along borders



Wild Beebalm flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Wild Beebalm is a perennial herb that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces which can be harvested at any point. The have a minty taste and a soft texture.

The are most often used in the following ways:

- Juice-Making
- Tea

Features & Attributes

Wild Beebalm has masses of beautiful clusters of fragrant pink flowers with lavender overtones at the ends of the stems from mid summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

This is an herbaceous perennial herb with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding



Aside from its primary use as an edible, Wild Beebalm is suitable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Herb Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Wild Beebalm will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 30 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated herb garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of our region. It can be propagated by division.

Wild Beebalm is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.