Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Bergamot, Wild bee balm

Description:

This wildflower variety produces pretty lavender-pink flowers in mid summer; best in dry to medium moisture soil; needs good air circulation; great for massing along borders



Wild Bergamot flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Wild Bergamot 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.



Wild Bergamot in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Wild Bergamot is an herbaceous perennial 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

Wild Bergamot is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Wild Bergamot flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Wild Bergamot 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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 North America. It can be propagated by division.