

## Bee Balm - *Monarda didyma*

**Other Common Names:** Monarda, Horsemint, Bergamot, Oswego Tea



Amy Prindle, CC BY-NC-SA, Denton County MGA

### BEE BALM or WILD BERGAMONT

Monarda 'Peter's Purple'

Clump forming Perennial; Butterflies, Hummingbirds



**Full Sun / Light Shade**



**Water:** Medium, moist soil

2-3' W x 3-5' H

**Color:** Lavender purple

**Blooms:** Summer

Slowly spreads; mildew susceptible; needs air circulation

**Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener**

## General Information

Bee balm is a member of the mint family. Used in making herbal teas and the flowers are edible. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

## Characteristics

**Hardiness Zones:** 4-9

**Size:** 2-3 Ft W X 3-5 ft H

**Flowers:** Red to wine colored tubular with buds resembling raspberries

**Bloom time:** June- August

**Leaves:** Square stems and large opposite leaves, dark green in color

**Growth Habit/Shape:** Clumping

**Soil Requirements:** Rich, medium to wet, moisture-retentive soils

**Propagation:** Divide every 2-3 years in early Spring as soon as they emerge from the ground

**Indoor/Outdoor:** Outdoor

## Pests and Disease Problems

Bee balm often suffers from powdery mildew. This is most prominent in overcrowded plants, those grown in partial to heavy shade and drought stressed plants. The Raspberry Wine variety is one of the least susceptible to powdery mildew.

## Plant Care

Plant bee balm in Spring or Fall in full to partial sun and provide an even supply of moisture throughout the growing season. Water every few days to a depth of 6 – 8 inches. Deadhead spent flowers to prolong bloom period.

## Sources for Additional Information

Missouri Botanical Garden

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=364292&isprofile=0&basic=monarda>

NC State Extension

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/monarda-didyma/>