

Bee Balm *Monarda dydima*

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



Photo: AmyPrindle/CC BY-NC-SA/DentonCountyMGA

BEE BALM or WILD BERGAMONT

Monarda 'Peter's Purple'

Clump forming Perennial; Butterflies, Hummingbirds



Full Sun / Light Shade



Water: Medium, moist soil

3-5' Tall x 2-3' Wide **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

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 3-5 feet tall by 2-3 feet wide

Flowers: Red to wine colored tubular with buds resembling raspberries

Bloom time: June thru August

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

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. Divide bee balms every 2-3 years in early spring as soon as they emerge from the ground.

Warning

None

Sources for Additional Information

Central Texas Gardener. [Peter's Purple Bee Balm](#)

Missouri Botanical Garden. [Bee Balm](#)

North Carolina Extension Gardener. [Monarda dydima](#)

Texas SmartScape. [Bee Balm](#)