

Bee balm, Wild bergamot

Monarda fistulosa



Monarda fistulosa, commonly called wild bergamot or bee balm, is a common **native** perennial which occurs statewide in dryish soils on prairies, dry rocky woods and glade margins, unplanted fields and along roads and railroads. A clump-forming, mint family member that grows typically to 2-4' tall. Lavender, two-lipped, tubular flowers appear in dense globular heads atop square stems. Each flower head rests upon a whorl of showy, pinkish, leafy bracts. Flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies. The aromatic grayish-green leaves (to 4") may be used in teas. Long summer bloom period. Grow in dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade.

Tolerates somewhat poor soils and some drought. This species has good powdery mildew resistance, but plant where air circulation is good, don't crowd it. Deadhead flowers to prolong summer bloom. Tends to self-seed.