



Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)

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Beebalm is an herbaceous perennial in the mint family. It is native to North America and grows in meadows, open woods and along streams. The foliage is fragrant and its dark green leaves are oval shaped. *Monarda didyma* flowers are large and showy. They are tubular in shape and scarlet red in color. Beebalm has been used by Native Americans for medicinal purposes. The leaves may be dried and used to make herbal tea or crushed and used to treat bee stings. There are many cultivars of *Monarda* available for purchase - red, pink, fuchsia, lavender or white. Cultivars range in height from 8 inches to 3 feet tall.

Type	Native perennial and cultivar
Hardiness Zone	3 - 9
Sun	Full sun or partial shade
Bloom Time	Early summer to fall
Height	2 - 4'
Spread	2 - 3'
Tolerance	Cold and drought tolerant
Attracts	Birds, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators
Additional Features	Deer and rabbit resistant

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well drained
- Soil pH: acidic (6.0 - 6.7)
- Type: organically rich and moist soil
- Placement considerations: borders, cutting gardens, along pathways and containers

Planting Recommendations

- Type: plants, seeds or root division
- When to plant: spring
- Depth of planting: dig a hole slightly larger than root ball, plant and cover with soil
- Mulching: mulch in spring
- Spacing: 18 - 24 inches apart
- Spread: by rhizomes and seed dispersal



- Division/transplant tips: root division spring or fall

Maintenance

- Watering: medium; it is best if consistently moist
- Fertilization: amend soil with organic matter in spring
- Pinching/deadheading: deadhead flowers to promote extended blooming
- Annual maintenance: cut back to ground in fall; divide every 3-4 years

Common Problems

Disease: prone to powdery mildew if crowded

Insects: prone to aphids, spider mites, thrips and whiteflies

Resources

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening>

<http://www.wildflower.org>

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant” for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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