

Monarda punctata

Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Native* to the eastern United States and to NoVA (except for Loudoun County), Spotted Beebalm inhabits dry prairies and sandy areas. This showy plant with tubular flowers, colorful bracts, and a stacked, whorled appearance provides interesting form and texture to the garden and attracts a variety of pollinators and beneficial insects.



Perennial	En Masse, Verticillasters w/ Pollinators** Fruit
Height: 1½ –2 feet	
Spread: ¾–1 feet	
Bloom Color: Yellow with purple dots	
Characteristics	
Clump-forming, short-lived herbaceous perennial	
Oregano-scented, lanceolate leaves w/ square stems	
Terminal and axillary verticillasters with small, two-lipped, purple-dotted, yellow flowers subtended by pinkish to lavender bracts bloom July to October	
Four nutlets grow in each calyx once petals drop	
Spreads by runners and seed; not too aggressive	
Attributes	
Tolerates poor soil, some drought; powdery mildew can be a serious problem and occasionally rust; deer and rabbits seldom severely damage	
Ethnobotanic uses; leaves used in teas	
Attracts beneficial wasps, bees, butterflies, moths, and hummers to nectar; songbirds to seeds; larval host to some moth species	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements: Well-drained, sandy soils best	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> - Mum
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Lantana camara</i> - Common Lantana
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> - Purple Loosestrife
Allow for good air circulation to prevent mildew; sensitive to over-watering	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> - Argentinian/Tall Vervain
Pinch off tips several times to promote branching; dead-head after flowering to prolong bloom time	
Use in pots and cottage, herb or pollinator gardens	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–9	*It is native to DC and MD. It is common in the Coastal Plain of DE and rare in PA. In VA, it is frequent in the Coastal Plain, infrequent in the Piedmont, and rare in the mountains. **Male and female carpenter bees visit flowers in October.

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free, Glencarlyn Library Community Garden and private garden, Arlington, VA



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