



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Spotted Bee Balm

Monarda punctata

DESCRIPTION: Spotted Bee is an upright perennial with multiple stems and a few short rhizomes. Plants grow 1-3' tall with 1' spread. The aromatic leaves are arranged opposite from each other on short petioles along the stems. The stems terminate in a series of rounded 2" to 3" clusters of tubular, creamy with violet dots. Several pinkish, lavender or creamy yellow colored bracts are arranged beneath each flower head. Blooming can occur any time from April through the summer. As the name suggests, it is pollinated by bees, but hummingbirds and butterflies may also visit it. Several species of moths lay their eggs on Spotted Bee Balm. It is native to the eastern edge of Arizona to the Atlantic shore. Spotted Bee Balm has more of the aromatic beneficial phenol thymol than other members of the Mint family. Plants have been used medicinally for horses as well as humans. For this reason they are sometimes called spotted horsemint or dotted horsemint.

RECOMMENDED USE: This is a good choice for a wildlife garden, cut flower garden, and perennial borders.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: 15°F



Sun tolerance: Best in morning sun to all-day light shade.



Watering and feeding: Low to moderate water use once established. Fertilize every month or so when it is growing.



Soil requirements: Sandy, or well-drained soil.



Pruning: Can be pruned back to near the ground to rejuvenate.