

Join the Bee Cause – Plant Bee Balm

(*Monarda* spp.)



A glorious mass of red and pink flowers and scent greets human, bird and insect garden visitors. As the common names imply (bergamot, horsemint and Oswego tea), this genus is in the Lamiaceae (Mint) family and plants have a minty smell (each one different) and can be used to make tisanes and have a history of use as a medicinal plant (e.g., *Monarda fistulosa*, a light-pink flowered native). There are several native and popular species of *Monarda*. The traditional bright-red *Monarda didyma* smells like Earl Grey tea and is a popular splash of red. Other newer varieties (Raspberry Wine, Pardon my Pink and Pardon my Purple) offer, as their names imply, colour variety and are more mildew resistant and shorter than the older *Monardas*.



In Canada, most seed companies offer a packet of seeds called Panorama Hybrid mix (a mix of colours). Nurseries now offer a wide variety of plants in several heights and colours.

*Keep your bees calm
with Bee Balm*

Growing Bee Balm:

Monardas are all perennial plants and grow best in sun or partial shade.

If buying nursery stock, look for healthy vigorous plants and plant them in good soil (mix in some organic material if your soil is sandy) once the soil has warmed up or anytime you are making or renovating a garden during the growing season, in the full or partial sun about 0.5 meters apart.

They flower in mid to late summer and bees and hummingbirds will seek them out!

