

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



## ***Monarda fistulosa* - Bergamot**

COMMON NAME: Bergamot, Wild Bergamot, Bee Balm

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Monarda fistulosa* - dedicated to Nicolas Monardes, 16th century Spanish physician and botanist.

FLOWER COLOR: Lavender, lilac-pink

BLOOMING PERIOD: June – September

SIZE: 2 – 5 ft.

BEHAVIOR: Perennial. Grows singly and in clusters. Spreads by branched rhizomes. Tends to become overly tall in new plantings without competition. Easily propagated from seed and blooms the second year.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Has a wide tolerance of soils and light conditions. Flowers best in full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Quebec to Alberta, south to Florida and Texas. It is found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Very fragrant long-lasting flowers. Excellent for fresh bouquets. Hummingbirds visit the flowers and many birds are attracted to the seeds. Insects, especially butterflies and bees, are attracted to the flowers. Wisconsin's Native Americans used bergamot for medicinal purposes. They made a tea to treat colds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little care once established. May require staking in small gardens and needs competition to control spreading. Mature plants can be divided.

COMPANION PLANTS: There is a wide range of associates including yellow coneflower, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, whorled milkweed, yarrow, flowering spurge, big bluestem, Culver's root and turkscap lily.