

BEE BALM 'PETER'S PURPLE'

Monarda fistulosa x *bartlettii* 'Peter's Purple'



Characteristics

- Type: Perennial
- Common Name: Wild bergamot
- Zone: 6 to 9
- Height: 3'-5'
- Spread: 2'-3'
- Bloom Time: June to August
- Bloom Description: Lavender-purple
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium to wet
- Maintenance: Low
- Flower: Showy
- Leaf: Fragrant
- Attracts: Hummingbirds, Butterflies
- Tolerate: Deer, Wet Soil

Culture

Most hybrids are of *Monarda didyma* parentage and are easily grown in average, medium to wet, moisture retentive soils in full sun to part shade. Those of *Monarda fistulosa* parentage are more tolerant of drier soils. Prefers rich, humusy soils in full sun, but appreciates some afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Soils must not be allowed to dry out. Remove spent flowers to improve plant appearance and possibly to prolong bloom. Divide clumps every 3-4 years to prevent overcrowding and to control mildly spreading tendencies. The plant slowly spreads by rhizomes. Provide plants with good air circulation to help combat fungal leaf diseases.

Noteworthy Characteristics

'Peter's Purple' is a hybrid of *Monarda fistulosa* 'Claire Grace' and a Mexican species, *Monarda barlettii*, that occurred in the garden of Texas native plant expert, Peter Loos. It is a clump-forming herbaceous perennial with aromatic, lance-shaped leaves. It has terminal whorls of two-lipped, 2 1/2 in. long, lavender purple flowers with purple calyces. It grows 3 to 5 ft. tall and 2 to 3 ft. wide.

Problems

Powdery mildew can be a serious problem with some of the monardas. 'Peter's Purple' is considered to be mildew resistant and will thrive in heat and humidity. Susceptibility to foliar diseases in general increases if plants are grown in dry soils or are allowed to dry out. Rust is also an occasional problem.

Garden Uses

Perennial borders, cottage gardens, herb gardens, moist sunny areas along streams or ponds. Also effective in containers.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder