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Growing With You Since 1926

Eastern Beebalm

Monarda bradburiana

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Bradbury's Beebalm

Description:

Showy rounded clusters of soft pink to white flowers with purple spots, on strong stems, over a clump of gray-green aromatic foliage; tolerates drought and infertile, rocky soils; great for massing along borders; mildew resistant



Eastern Beebalm flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Eastern Beebalm in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Eastern Beebalm has masses of beautiful clusters of fragrant shell pink pincushion flowers with white overtones and purple spots at the ends of the stems from mid to late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Eastern Beebalm is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

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- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Eastern Beebalm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Eastern Beebalm flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Eastern Beebalm will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Eastern Beebalm is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.