Dark Ponticum Beebalm

Monarda didyma 'Dark Ponticum'



Dark Ponticum Beebalm flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Bergamot, Oswego Tea

Description:

A dense, upright form of bee balm that produces whorls of striking violet-purple flowers over a long period; this variety is mildew resistant as well; great for massing in the middle of borders

Ornamental Features

Dark Ponticum Beebalm has masses of beautiful clusters of fragrant violet flowers with purple overtones at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The deep purple stems can be quite attractive.



Dark Ponticum Beebalm in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Dark Ponticum 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;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

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Dark Ponticum Beebalm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Dark Ponticum Beebalm will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, 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 prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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 is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.