

# Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

## Fact Sheet: Beebalm, Wild Bergamot

Scientific name: *Monarda fistulosa* L.



Beebalm was one of nine plant species used in research evaluating perennial wildflower plantings for supporting wild bees and improving crop pollination on farmlands in Montana.

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Life cycle:** perennial

**Growth habit:** forb/herb, subshrub

**Flower color:** lavender-pink

**Flower shape:** tubular flowers

**Foliage:** gray-green, broadly lance-shaped leaves

**Height:** 1-3 feet

**Bloom period:** June-August

**Habitat:** Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including meadows, grasslands, woodlands, prairies, fields, roadsides, and ditches.

**Growing conditions:** full to part sun; dry to moist well-drained soil; tolerates a variety of soil types; drought tolerant once established.

**Establishment:** Seed does not require pre-treatment to break dormancy. For this project, we grew plants from seed in the greenhouse and transplanted them to the field as plugs in Spring. Plants did not flower during the year they were planted, but did so abundantly the following two years. Overwintering success was high on all farms. Seed collecting was easy and seed matured almost simultaneously. Plants readily spread via rhizomes.

**For more information on native plants:** Visit the USDA-NRCS PLANTS database or the Montana Native Plant Society website.

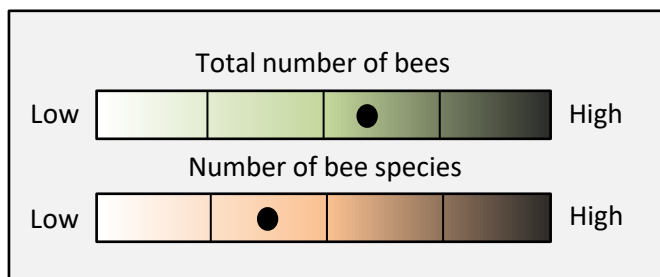


Photo: C.M. Delphia

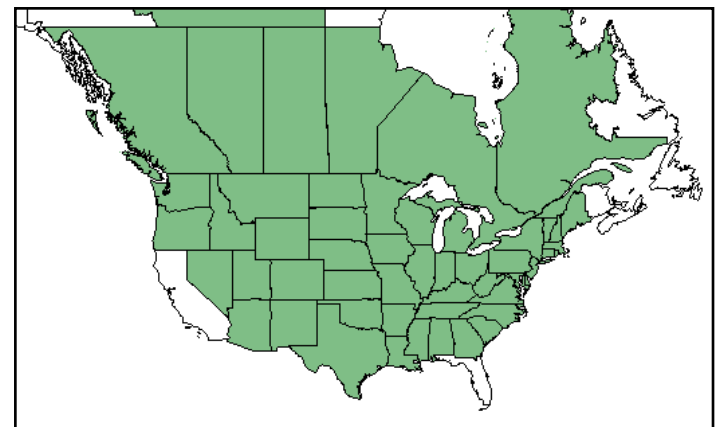


Photo: C.M. Delphia

**Bee visitation:** Bumble bees, medium and small mining bees, digger bees, green sweat bees, banded sweat bees, small dark sweat bees, small carpenter bees, mason bees, leafcutting bees, resin bees, and masked bees.



Relative attractiveness of *M. fistulosa* across farms over 2 years.



*Monarda fistulosa* distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database