

# Bee Balm

Monarda didyma

## QUICK FACTS

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USDA ZONES

**3–9**

SUNLIGHT

**Full Sun**

BLOOM

**Summer**

HEIGHT

**2–4 ft**

DEER

**Resistant**

ORIGIN

**North American native**

POLLINATORS

**Yes**

## AT A GLANCE

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Bee balm's two major problems are powdery mildew and aggressive spreading. Both are manageable with good planting decisions -- choose a mildew-resistant cultivar, give the plant full sun with good air circulation, and divide it every 2–3 years before it crowds out neighbors. Skip those steps and you'll be fighting both problems indefinitely.

## PLANTING CHECKLIST

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- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

## FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/bee-balm-care/>