

Growing bee balm for tea

Monarda didyma

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–9

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun To Partial Shade

HEIGHT

2–4 ft

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

Bee balm is a vigorous, spreading native perennial with outstanding ornamental and culinary value. Its primary challenge is powdery mildew. Choose resistant cultivars from the outset; it is far easier than managing the disease on susceptible varieties. Divide every 2-3 years to maintain vigor and reduce crowding.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- 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/vegetables/growing-bee-balm-for-tea/>

© Outdoor Plant Care · Cited from Cornell, Penn State, NC State, Missouri Botanical Garden