

# Spotted beebalm

(*Monarda punctata*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Spotted beebalm (also known as Dotted horsemint) is a robust, aromatic wildflower known to attract a huge variety of pollinating insects, including bees, wasps and butterflies. Its flowers are inconspicuous, hairy, and whitish-yellow with purplish spots. They are surrounded by showy, leaf-like bracts that vary in color from pink to lavender or purple, often with yellowish-green tips and undersides. Flowers are arranged in whorls. Leaves are pubescent with toothed margins and are oppositely arranged. As with other members of the mint family, its stem is square.

Spotted beebalm is high in thymol, which has antimicrobial, antifungal and antiseptic properties and has been used historically to treat ringworm and hookworm infections.

**Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint family)

**Native range:** Nearly throughout

To see where natural populations of Spotted beebalm have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Hardiness:** Zones 8–10a

**Soil:** Dry to slightly moist but well-drained soil

**Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

**Growth habit:** 1–3' tall

**Propagation:** Seed, cutting

**Garden tips:** Spotted beebalm has a long bloom time and be a nice addition to a home landscape, but it can quickly outcompete other wildflowers if not maintained.

Spotted beebalm seeds are often available from the Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative at [www.FloridaWildflowers.com](http://www.FloridaWildflowers.com). Plants are occasionally available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit [PlantRealFlorida.org](http://PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a native nursery on your area.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo