



# Bee Balm, *Monarda fistulosa*



**Flowering period:** July-September

**Height:** 2-3' tall

**Bloom Characteristics:** Tubular, Circular cluster, 5-parted, pale pink-purple

**Growth preference:** Mesic loamy soils, water and drought tolerance, part to full sun

Bee balm is one of the best foraging plants for bumble bees and when flowering it is their preferred nectar source. Bee Balm is in the mint family and carries a sweet/spicy scent making it very attractive to bees. Monarda blooms throughout the day, offering a continual reward as old blooms are replaced by newly opened flowers.

**Larval Host Plant For:** Hermit Sphinx Moth *Lintneria eremitus*, and Snout Moths *Pyrausta generosa*, *P. signatalis*

**Specialist Bee:** Black Sweat Bee, *Dufourea monardae*

**Common Visitors:**

Birds- Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Butterflies- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly, Silver Spotted Skipper Butterfly, Monarch Butterfly

Moths- Hummingbird Clearwing Moths, Snout Moth

Large and Medium Bees- Bumble bees, Long Horned Bees, Cuckoo Bees, Wool Carder Bees

Small Bees- Sweat Bees, Small Resin bees and Leaf Cutter Bees

