



Photo by Gerald Beetham

## Spotted Bee Balm

*Monarda punctata*

### Growing Information

- Sunlight: Full sun to part shade
- Soils: Dry to moist soils, does well in poor soils
- Bloom Time: Summer blossoms – July, August, September; interesting flower!
- Size: 2-3ft in height

Also called Dotted Mint or Dotted Horsemint, this plant is amazingly drought tolerant. Pollinators love this plant. Aromatic foliage, in bud, it forms saffron-colored rosettes in whorls along the top half of the stem. When the whorls release, watercolor-painted petals with little freckles are exposed and later mature to a soft pinkish-dawn color. These painted petals hold at the end of the flower spike for weeks upon weeks as they peek out through what appears to be leaf bracts.

### Garden Companions

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*); Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

### Nature Benefits

- Nectar source for diverse number of pollinators
- Host for the Raspberry pyrausta butterfly caterpillar

### Native Habitat

Occurs naturally fields, clearings, and roadsides.