



Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea, Red Bergamot

Monarda didyma



Photos courtesy of Ann McCulloh (above), Bill Hendricks (below left), and Judy Semroc (below right)

Unique Characteristics

This perennial herb has tubular, two-lipped, bright scarlet flowers resembling messy mop-heads. It tolerates a wide range of conditions. Toothed, aromatic leaves have a minty aroma.

Plant Type:	Herbaceous perennial
Native Range:	Canada and U.S.
Sun:	Full sun to part shade
Water:	Medium to wet
Soil:	Rich, moist, acid soils
pH:	<6.8
Height:	2-4 feet
Spread:	2-3 feet
Wildlife:	Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
Hardiness Zones:	4-9
Bloom Time:	July to August
Bloom Color:	Red
Uses:	Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees are attracted to the blossoms of Oswego tea. The name Beebalm comes from the folk use of crushed leaves to soothe bee stings. Provides color and contrast for the perennial border, cottage garden, rain garden, wild garden, native plant garden, meadow, herb garden, naturalized planting, or along ponds or streams. Good plant for wildlife gardens; shows some deer resistance due to aromatic foliage.

