



bee balm

Monarda spp.

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Bee balm, a member of the mint family, is also known as horsemint and wild bergamot. This perennial plant grows from roots. The upright, square stem is usually not branched and may grow to one and one-half feet tall. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. Each leaf is generally oval-shaped, coarsely toothed and hairy. There is no leafstalk. Several flowers are clustered at the stem tip. Each flower may be up to one inch long. The five petals, in a variety of shades from white to red, are united into a tube with an upper and a lower lip. The fruit is a nutlet.

BEHAVIORS

Bee balm may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in woods, in thickets and along streambanks. Flowering occurs from April through July.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
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