Winter 1-1-2009

Mountain Beebalm in the Landscape

Heidi Kratsch
Graham Hunter

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_curgarden
Part of the Horticulture Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_curgarden/8
Mountain Beebalm in the Landscape

Heidi Kratsch, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist
Graham Hunter, Research Associate, Center for Water Efficient Landscaping

Monardella odoratissima

Mountain Beebalm

Description: This mound-forming perennial is typically seen in higher elevations in the interior West. The lavender or rose-purple flowers are attractive to insects, especially bees and butterflies. In the mint family, its stems are sturdy and erect, and it emits a fragrant aroma of mint when brushed. This plant is easy to establish and maintain in Intermountain West landscapes and is perfect for rock gardens.

Cultural Requirements:

- Native Habitat: Typically in higher elevation, rocky areas at 6,000 to 11,000 feet.
- Soil: Dry, rocky or sandy well drained
- Cold Tolerance: Zones 3 - 8
- Drought Tolerance: Medium; water one time per month in most Utah landscapes.
- Salt Tolerance: Unknown
- Sun/Shade Preference: Full sun to part shade
- Propagation: From seed, stem cuttings, or division
- Maintenance: Clip off spent flowers for appearance and repeated bloom; prune lightly in fall for a more compact appearance.
- Problems: No known cultural problems
Landscape Value:
- Use in the Landscape: Borders, accents, rock gardens, ground cover
- Foliage: Glossy, ovate leaves oppositely arranged on stems; vary in color from dark green to blue-green
- Flowers: Showy, lavender or rose-purple inflorescence (cluster of flowers) arranged in a flower head

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit (seedheads)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Smooth, brown nutlets (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mounded, sprawling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 foot tall x 2 feet wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Growth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fast; blooms in the first year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Subalpine, montane, foothills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Utah’s Choice” selection; (visit <a href="http://www.utahschoice.org/natives/wheretobuy">http://www.utahschoice.org/natives/wheretobuy</a> for more information).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivars</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None of ornamental value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Propagation:

Cold-moist stratify seed for up to 90 days. Germinate in a soil-less, peat-based mix at a depth of ¼ inch. Fresh seed may not need cold-stratification to germinate. Plant can be propagated from stem cuttings. Divide plants every 3 to 5 years, as needed.

Additional Photos:

![Photo 1](image1.png)  ![Photo 2](image2.png)

Photo credits: Graham Hunter
References:


This fact sheet belongs to a series of fact sheets about Intermountain West native trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses called “Native Plants in the Landscape.” Look for others in the series by visiting http://extension.usu.edu/htm/publications, then clicking on ‘Horticulture’ and ‘Native Plants’.

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran’s status. USU’s policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions.

Utah State University employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran’s status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities.

This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle E. Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.