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Mountain Beebalm in the Landscape

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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
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 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’.

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