

Hot Lips Turtlehead



Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips'

- **Use:** Cheerful spikes of pink snapdragon-like flowers emerge above the spreading foliage in late summer. Ideal middle-of-the-border plant for contrasting color and foliage among dwarf shrubs.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full– part sun, very easy to please. Prefers well-drained soils so please amend red clay. Use a slow release fertilizer. A valuable problem solver for poorly drained sites. Wide adaptability to radically differing climates and as a North American native it has all the qualities of a superior perennial. Well suited to middle of the perennial border and blended into mixed plantings. Super foundation plant where drainage is problematic. A natural plant for wild gardens and those composed of locally native species. Its habitat tells us turtlehead is excellent around bogs and water gardens where soils may be perennially moist from splash and spay. Plant in irregular groupings for masses of foliage and flowers.
- **Growth:** Fast growing; reaches 2 ft. tall in bloom, spreading to 2 ft. wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-8; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; Ovate, coarsely-toothed green leaves (to 3-6" long) have slender petioles, rounded bases and pointed tips.
- **Flower:** Features rosy pink fall flowers (richer pink than the species), bronze green maturing to dark green foliage (deeper green than the species), and red stems.

Turtlehead is among the most promising of our eastern natives for cultivated gardens. Naturally found from Maine and Minnesota to Mississippi and Florida, its broad adaptation to such varying climates makes it a willing wild one for tamed backyard garden.

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