

Pink Turtlehead



Chelone obliqua 'Rosea'

- **Use:** Turtleheads are native wildflowers that adapt beautifully to garden conditions. In this variety, plants form an upright, bushy mound of green foliage, bearing upright stems of large pink hooded flowers beginning in late summer. Best in a moist or wet site, this also adapts well to average border conditions. Terrific at the waterside. Excellent for cutting. Showy and long lived. Attractive to butterflies.
- **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 4a-9b; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; Ovate, coarsely-toothed green leaves (to 3-6" long) have slender petioles, rounded bases and pointed tips.
- **Flower:** In late summer and early fall, the clumps are topped with pink snapdragon like flowers

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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