

Claire Grace Bee Balm/Wild Bergamot



Monarda fistulosa 'Claire Grace'

- **Use:** A naturally occurring selection of *Monarda fistulosa* that was found by Barb and Michael Bridges and named for their daughter. Compared to the straight species, 'Claire Grace' has a sturdier habit, slightly darker purple flowers, better resistance to powdery mildew, and more attractive, glossy, green foliage. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds can't resist their sweet nectar and fragrance. Attract much needed pollinators and feed your soul with these beautiful, contained, carefree bee balms. *Monarda fistulosa* can be found as far north as Quebec and Manitoba, spreading down south to Georgia, Louisiana, and Arizona. It grows rampantly in moist rich loam but can tolerate drier conditions. In moist conditions, the plant is known to flop so a good plant to plant around other perennials that can provide structure. In drier conditions, the bottom leaves of the stems fall off, which also can be supported and hidden by a layered planting design and strong, perennial neighbors with a different season of interest.
- **Exposure/Soil:** They prefer warm sun or part shade if warm spot in the garden. When they are growing, they do not like to dry out, but when they are dormant, they like to be dry. They can be grown great in containers as well, but containers should be left dry in the garage or under an eave for the winter. They can handle cold temperatures if they are dry. It grows rampantly in moist rich loam but can tolerate drier conditions. In moist conditions, the plant is known to flop so a good plant to plant around other perennials that can provide structure. In drier conditions, the bottom leaves of the stems fall off, which also can be supported and hidden by a layered planting design and strong, perennial neighbors with a different season of interest.
- **Growth:** Moderate grower to 3-4' tall and 2-3' wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-9; Perennial Mulch around plant in the winter.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The toothed, aromatic, oblong, grayish-green leaves (to 4") may be used in teas. It is reputed to have some resistance to powdery mildew.
- **Flower:** It has soft to deep lavender, 3 in. wide, tubular, pin cushion-like flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

We love to use them
as cut flowers!



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