

# Monarda didyma

## 'Coral Reef'

*North American Native Cultivar*



**Monarda**  
(mo-nard-a)  
Named after Dr.  
Nicholas Monardas  
(1493-1588).

**didyma** (di-di-ma)  
meaning twin or in  
pairs; two-fold (the  
stamens or the  
leaves).



**Zones:** 3 – 8    **Flower Color:** Salmon-pink    **Height:** 3 – 4'    **Spacing:** 18"

'Coral Reef' is a bright salmon pink, taller than parent 'Marshall's Delight', at 3-4' with good mildew resistance.

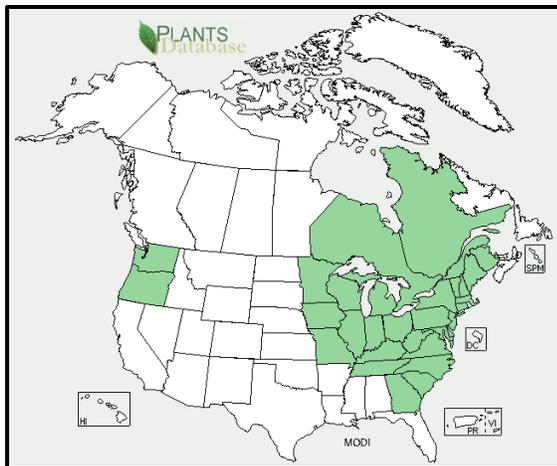
### About the Species:

**Common Name:** Bee Balm, Oswego Tea

**Family:** Lamiaceae

*Monardas* can be 15-18" tall or 5' tall, depending on the cultivar. As part of the Mint Family, *Monarda* has square stems and gray-green leaves, with a slightly 'minty' scent. The whorled clusters of petals are in a variety of colors. *Monarda didyma* is known to have a calming effect on bees and yields a high amount of nectar, hence the name Bee Balm. *Monarda* will also attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Habitat:** Native to moist open woods, bottomlands, meadows and stream banks in eastern North America.



USDA Plants Database

**In the Garden:** This plant likes to grow in average to well-drained soil in full sun. Good air circulation surrounding the plant is essential to avoiding powdery mildew. Very tolerant of heat and humidity, this plant is excellent in the mixed border in the Mid-Atlantic States.

#### Truth or Folklore

White Fawn, a young Oswego Indian maiden, was mixing a poultice of crushed leaves to soothe insect bites she obtained while walking with her beau, Running Wolf. Running Wolf had used *Monarda* to scent his pomade that was made out of (hopefully fresh) bear grease. Early settlers were told of this cosmetic recipe by the Native Americans. White Fawn's older sister was using *Monarda* to cover up the bitterness of foul-tasting medicines she was preparing for her young children who had spring colds. And, their mothers were also using *Monarda* in teas to treat chills and fevers, and to season the meat cooking on the fire.

**Other Uses:** The citrus & minty scent, reminiscent of the aromatic oil pressed by the bergamot oranges (grown in and around Bergamo, Italy) that are used in Earl Grey Tea, led to this mint becoming known as Wild bergamot. 'Red' bergamot, another name, was a favorite in European and English gardens. After the Boston Tea Party, the colonists substituted *Monarda* for the imported tea that was in very short supply. Drinking this tea, during the boycott was considered very patriotic. Colonial households were growing these plants in their kitchen gardens for their medicinal properties. They could pick leaves for both tea drinking and for making a poultice to take the sting out of the bee stings. They also used the flowers to flavor apple jelly, salads, and fruit cups. The flowers and leaves were also used in potpourris.

# Monarda didyma 'Jacob Cline'

*North American Native Cultivar*



**Zones:** 3 – 8    **Flower Color:** Red  
**Height:** 5'        **Spacing:** 18"

*Monarda* (mo-nard-a)  
Named after Dr. Nicholas  
Monardas (1493-1588).

*didyma* (di-di-ma) meaning  
twin or in pairs; two-fold  
(the stamens or the leaves).



'Jacob Cline' is a cultivar named after the son of Don Cline, a Georgia plantsman and garden designer Jean Cline and was introduced into the trade by Saul Brothers. Its deep red flowers and mildew resistant leaves make it one of the most sought after *Monardas*.



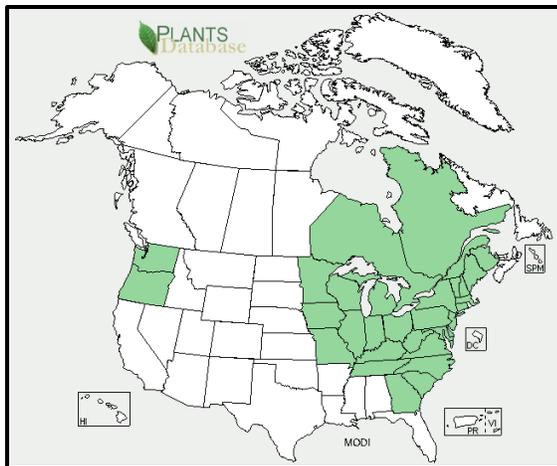
## About the Species:

**Common Name:** Bee Balm, Oswego Tea

**Family:** Lamiaceae

*Monardas* can be 15-18" tall or 5' tall, depending on the cultivar. As part of the Mint Family, *Monarda* has square stems and gray-green leaves, with a slightly 'minty' scent. The whorled clusters of petals are in a variety of colors. *Monarda didyma* is known to have a calming effect on bees and yields a high amount of nectar, hence the name Bee Balm. *Monarda* will also attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Habitat:** Native to moist open woods, bottomlands, meadows and stream banks in eastern North America.



USDA Plants Database

**In the Garden:** This plant likes to grow in average to well-drained soil in full sun. Good air circulation surrounding the plant is essential to avoiding powdery mildew. Very tolerant of heat and humidity, this plant is excellent in the mixed border in the Mid-Atlantic States.

### Truth or Folklore

White Fawn, a young Oswego Indian maiden, was mixing a poultice of crushed leaves to soothe insect bites she obtained while walking with her beau, Running Wolf. Running Wolf had used *Monarda* to scent his pomade that was made out of (hopefully fresh) bear grease. Early settlers were told of this cosmetic recipe by the Native Americans. White Fawn's older sister was using *Monarda* to cover up the bitterness of foul-tasting medicines she was preparing for her young children who had spring colds. And, their mothers were also using *Monarda* in teas to treat chills and fevers, and to season the meat cooking on the fire.

**Other Uses:** The citrus & minty scent, reminiscent of the aromatic oil pressed by the bergamot oranges (grown in and around Bergamo, Italy) that are used in Earl Grey Tea, led to this mint becoming known as Wild bergamot. 'Red' bergamot, another name, was a favorite in European and English gardens. After the Boston Tea Party, the colonists substituted *Monarda* for the imported tea that was in very short supply. Drinking this tea, during the boycott was considered very patriotic. Colonial households were growing these plants in their kitchen gardens for their medicinal properties. They could pick leaves for both tea drinking and for making a poultice to take the sting out of the bee stings. They also used the flowers to flavor apple jelly, salads, and fruit cups. The flowers and leaves were also used in potpourris.

# Monarda didyma

## 'Marshall's Delight'

*North American Native Cultivar*



**Monarda** (mo-nard-a)  
Named after Dr. Nicholas  
Monardas (1493-1588).

**didyma** (di-di-ma)  
meaning twin or in pairs;  
two-fold (the stamens or  
the leaves).

**Zones:** 3 – 8  
**Flower Color:** Pink  
**Height:** 2 – 3'  
**Spacing:** 18"



'Marshall's Delite' was developed in Morden, Manitoba from a cross between 'Cambridge Scarlet' and *Monarda fistulosa* var. *menthaefolia*. Beautiful pink flowers on 2-3' stems are relatively mildew-free plants.

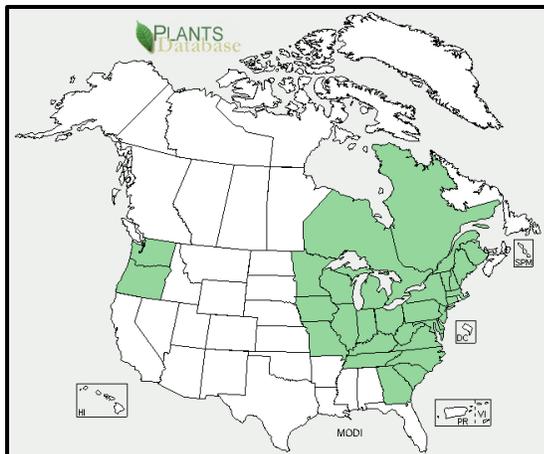
### About the Species:

**Common Name:** Bee Balm, Oswego Tea

**Family:** Lamiaceae

*Monardas* can be 15-18" tall or 5' tall, depending on the cultivar. As part of the Mint Family, *Monarda* has square stems and gray-green leaves, with a slightly 'minty' scent. The whorled clusters of petals are in a variety of colors. *Monarda didyma* is known to have a calming effect on bees and yields a high amount of nectar, hence the name Bee Balm. *Monarda* will also attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Habitat:** Native to moist open woods, bottomlands, meadows and stream banks in eastern North America.



USDA Plants Database

**In the Garden:** This plant likes to grow in average to well-drained soil in full sun. Good air circulation surrounding the plant is essential to avoiding powdery mildew. Very tolerant of heat and humidity, this plant is excellent in the mixed border in the Mid-Atlantic States.

#### Truth or Folklore

White Fawn, a young Oswego Indian maiden, was mixing a poultice of crushed leaves to soothe insect bites she obtained while walking with her beau, Running Wolf. Running Wolf had used *Monarda* to scent his pomade that was made out of (hopefully fresh) bear grease. Early settlers were told of this cosmetic recipe by the Native Americans. White Fawn's older sister was using *Monarda* to cover up the bitterness of foul-tasting medicines she was preparing for her young children who had spring colds. And, their mothers were also using *Monarda* in teas to treat chills and fevers, and to season the meat cooking on the fire.

**Other Uses:** The citrus & minty scent, reminiscent of the aromatic oil pressed by the bergamot oranges (grown in and around Bergamo, Italy) that are used in Earl Grey Tea, led to this mint becoming known as Wild bergamot. 'Red' bergamot, another name, was a favorite in European and English gardens. After the Boston Tea Party, the colonists substituted *Monarda* for the imported tea that was in very short supply. Drinking this tea, during the boycott was considered very patriotic. Colonial households were growing these plants in their kitchen gardens for their medicinal properties. They could pick leaves for both tea drinking and for making a poultice to take the sting out of the bee stings. They also used the flowers to flavor apple jelly, salads, and fruit cups. The flowers and leaves were also used in potpourris.

# Monarda didyma

## 'Petite Delight'

**North American Native Cultivar**



**Monarda** (mo-nard-a)  
Named after Dr. Nicholas  
Monardas (1493-1588).

**didyma** (di-di-ma) meaning  
twin or in pairs; two-fold  
(the stamens or the leaves).



**Zones:** 3 – 8

**Flower Color:** Pink-lavender

**Height:** 15 – 18"

**Spacing:** 18"



'Petite Delight' is a short 15-18" clump forming *Monarda* with clean leaves and good mildew resistance. The pink-lavender flowers will bloom in July and August.

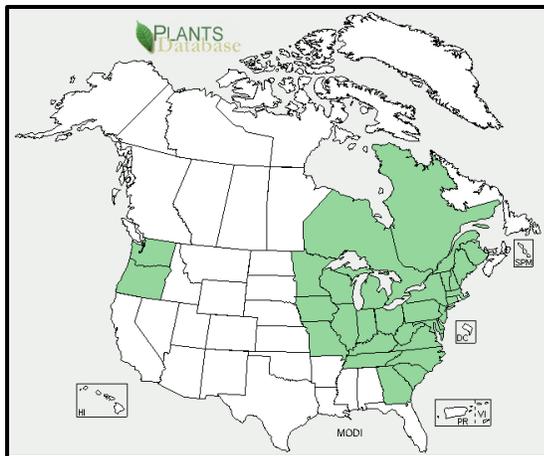
### About the Species:

**Common Name:** Bee Balm, Oswego Tea

**Family:** Lamiaceae

*Monardas* can be 15-18" tall or 5' tall, depending on the cultivar. As part of the Mint Family, *Monarda* has square stems and gray-green leaves, with a slightly 'minty' scent. The whorled clusters of petals are in a variety of colors. *Monarda didyma* is known to have a calming effect on bees and yields a high amount of nectar, hence the name Bee Balm. *Monarda* will also attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Habitat:** Native to moist open woods, bottomlands, meadows and stream banks in eastern North America.



USDA Plants Database

**In the Garden:** This plant likes to grow in average to well-drained soil in full sun. Good air circulation surrounding the plant is essential to avoiding powdery mildew. Very tolerant of heat and humidity, this plant is excellent in the mixed border in the Mid-Atlantic States.

#### Truth or Folklore

White Fawn, a young Oswego Indian maiden, was mixing a poultice of crushed leaves to soothe insect bites she obtained while walking with her beau, Running Wolf. Running Wolf had used *Monarda* to scent his pomade that was made out of (hopefully fresh) bear grease. Early settlers were told of this cosmetic recipe by the Native Americans. White Fawn's older sister was using *Monarda* to cover up the bitterness of foul-tasting medicines she was preparing for her young children who had spring colds. And, their mothers were also using *Monarda* in teas to treat chills and fevers, and to season the meat cooking on the fire.

**Other Uses:** The citrus & minty scent, reminiscent of the aromatic oil pressed by the bergamot oranges (grown in and around Bergamo, Italy) that are used in Earl Grey Tea, led to this mint becoming known as Wild bergamot. 'Red' bergamot, another name, was a favorite in European and English gardens. After the Boston Tea Party, the colonists substituted *Monarda* for the imported tea that was in very short supply. Drinking this tea, during the boycott was considered very patriotic. Colonial households were growing these plants in their kitchen gardens for their medicinal properties. They could pick leaves for both tea drinking and for making a poultice to take the sting out of the bee stings. They used the flowers to flavor apple jelly, salads, and fruit cups. The flowers and leaves were also used in potpourris.