

Monarda didyma 'Pardon my Purple'

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8/17/2026

This cultivar is compact and low-growing, reaching 10-12 inches tall and spreading 8-12 inches. Its common name is bee balm. It has dark green leaves and deep purple flowers. Notably, it is mildew resistant, which helps keep it healthy and attractive throughout the season. Mine bloom for about a month during May-June.

Because of its size, it is ideal for a front border, and the color pops against layered, taller, contrasting foliage. Ensure it receives full sun with some afternoon shade and is planted in well-draining, rich soil to thrive in zones 4-9.

This herbaceous perennial grows well in zones 4-9. It prefers rich and moist humus soil with full sun and some afternoon shade. It will spread by rhizomes and self-seeds. To keep it healthy and vigorous, divide clumps every 3-4 years, or more often if needed, to prevent overcrowding and ensure continuous growth.

It is a great plant that I have enjoyed watching butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and hummingbird sphinx moths buzzing around and collecting nectar from one plant to another. This makes it a rewarding addition to any garden that supports pollinators and local ecosystems.

References:

Missouri Botanical Garden



Photo from Missouri Botanical Garden