



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

GARDEN BEE BALM CARE

LIGHT

Garden bee balm includes *Monarda didyma* selections and many ornamental hybrids. Grow in full sun for strong flowering, or light shade where the label allows. Give compact cultivars the same open air circulation as tall types. Mature size and flowering season vary considerably between selections.

WATERING

Keep the root zone evenly moist, especially while establishing plants and during summer dry spells. Drought stress can increase susceptibility to mildew. Water deeply at the soil and avoid repeatedly wetting the leaves. Drainage remains important; do not leave the crown in standing water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use fertile, moisture-retentive soil that drains freely. Plant at the original nursery depth and water thoroughly. Space for the labeled mature spread so neighboring clumps do not crowd the foliage. Some selections spread strongly through underground stems; allow room or manage the edges of the planting.

FERTILIZING

Add compost where soil is poor. Supplement with a perennial fertilizer only as soil conditions and the product label warrant. Heavy feeding is unnecessary in fertile beds and may encourage overly lush growth. Correct drought, crowding or poor light before trying to improve performance with fertilizer.

FLOWERS & DIVISION

Remove faded flower heads if you want a tidier plant or possible later bloom. Retain healthy leaves. Divide crowded clumps in spring when needed, replanting vigorous outer sections at the original depth. Water divisions well and remove unwanted spreading shoots without disturbing the entire planting.

SEASONAL CARE

Watch for white powdery mildew, rust and mites. Remove badly diseased debris and improve spacing rather than assuming resistant cultivars are immune. Healthy hollow stems can be left standing for nesting insects; avoid cutting all of them to ground level. Identify persistent symptoms before selecting a treatment.