



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SPOTTED BEE BALM CARE

LIGHT

Spotted bee balm (*Monarda punctata*), also called spotted horsemint, grows in full sun to partial shade. An open sunny position encourages good growth and air circulation. Its stacked flowers and colorful bracts differ from the rounded flower heads of ordinary garden bee balm.

WATERING

Water young plants while roots establish. This species tolerates occasional drought, but prolonged dryness can stress plants and increase disease problems. Check the soil during hot spells and water deeply at the base when needed. Avoid both constant saturation and repeated shallow sprinkling over the foliage.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose well-drained garden soil, including sandy or rocky sites. Plant at the original nursery depth and water to settle the root ball. Leave room for the labeled mature spread and keep the crown clear of heavy mulch. Good drainage is especially important through winter.

FERTILIZING

Avoid heavy feeding in ordinary garden soil. Use a soil test if poor growth suggests a nutrient shortage, and follow product directions for any supplemental fertilizer. Check moisture, drainage and light before adding nutrients. Overly lush, crowded growth can make disease management more difficult.

FLOWERS & RENEWAL

Flowers and bracts provide interest in summer and fall. Remove spent heads for tidiness or leave some to set seed. Spotted bee balm is often short-lived, so allowing selected seedlings can help maintain a naturalized patch. Keep useful seedlings and remove extras before the planting becomes crowded.

SEASONAL CARE

Watch for powdery mildew or rust late in the season. Remove badly diseased debris and improve spacing. Retain sound stems and seed heads where practical for wildlife, while keeping the crown free of smothering material. A short-lived parent may decline even when conditions are suitable; plan for renewal.