Leading Lady Plum Beebalm

Monarda 'Leading Lady Plum'



Leading Lady Plum Beebalm flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 10 inches

Flower Height: 14 inches

Spread: 26 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Bergamot, Oswego Tea

Description:

This variety forms a dense, compact mound of magenta-purple flowers, on well branched, strong stems, over lush dark green foliage that has an excellent resistance to powdery mildew; great for massing along border fronts



Leading Lady Plum Beebalm in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Leading Lady Plum Beebalm has masses of beautiful clusters of fragrant plum purple pincushion flowers with hot pink overtones at the ends of the stems from early to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its fragrant pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Leading Lady Plum Beebalm is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Leading Lady Plum Beebalm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Leading Lady Plum Beebalm will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity extending to 14 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 26 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Leading Lady Plum Beebalm is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.