Help spread flowers that are native to the North Eastern United States! Whether you plant them in your garden or in a field, along the road or in a pot on your balcony, you will be doing Mother Nature a favor. **Wild Bee Balm** is very attractive to hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators native to our area, who feed on the nectar.

Contents: **Wild Bee Balm Seeds** (Monarda Fistulosa)

Direct seed: Sow from early spring up until 8 weeks before the first frost in the fall.
Days to germination: 7-14 days at 60-70°F.
One seed per inch. Thin to 12-18" apart.
Sun/Part Shade.
Plant seeds in moist, rich soil.
Tolerates dry conditions once established. Blooms in the second year.
Open pollinated.

Wild Bee Balm

WILD BEE BALM, also called Monarda and Wild Bergamot, is an absolute favorite with bees, butterflies and hummingbirds who are all over it in the hot summer months.

Wild Bee Balm habitats include moist to slightly dry soil but it prefers sunny, dry locations. It tends to thrive in thickets, borders of limestone glades, as well as in fields. It can grow in woodland areas but not in abundance.

The leaves of wild bee balm are edible raw or cooked. They can be used as a flavoring in salads and cooked foods. The flowers make an attractive edible garnish in salads. Fresh or dried flowers and/or leaves can be brewed into an aromatic tea, which was extensively used by many Native Americans including the Menominee, the Ojibwa and the Winnebago among others, to soothe bronchial complaints and ease colds.

Beautiful shaggy lavender/pink flowers distinguish this plant from many others. Related to thyme, this plant much prefers dry, sunny locations as it can develop mildew in overly moist conditions. This is a drought-resistant edible plant dotted with glands that secrete aromatic oils. Wild bee balm's closest cousin is the red Bee Balm common in cultivated gardens.

Sow from early spring up until 8 weeks before the first frost in the fall, in a sunny spot with part shade. Sow about one seed per inch in rows 18" apart. Thin to 12-18" apart. Wild bee balm grows between 36" and 48" tall. Plants produce flowers in the second year after planting. Monarda blooms in mid-summer for about one month.