

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

and

THE IOWA ECOTYPE PROJECT AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

NATIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION CENTER
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AMES, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SOUTHERN IOWA GERMPLASM
WILD BERGAMOT
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Ecotype Project at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), the Native Roadside Vegetation Center (NRVC), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa* L.) for Southern Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Southern Iowa Germplasm Wild Bergamot to document its original collections. Southern Iowa Germplasm Wild Bergamot is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9068680.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of wild bergamot collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

Collection Site Information: Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the three tiers of counties located in southern Iowa.

Ecotype Description: Wild bergamot is a native, perennial forb that grows 2 to 5 feet tall. The stems are square, branched or unbranched, smooth, and somewhat hairy toward the top. The leaves, on short petioles, are opposite; each pair is at right angles to the adjacent pair. Individual leaves are somewhat oval in shape, 2 ½ by 1 inch, but narrowed and pointed toward the tip. Margins are unevenly toothed. Both leaves and stems have a minty aroma and a gray-green color that may be tinged with purple. The root system is a clump of fibrous rootlets and rhizomes. Flowers are slender pink to lavender tubes, each with a distinct lip or tube. These

inch long tubes cluster together in dense but ragged heads that may be 1 ½ inches across. Stamens protrude from the tubes, adding to the ragged appearance. Flowering is from early July to early August. Fruits are four nutlets, 1/32 inch in diameter, enclosed by a persistent calyx. Fruiting begins in late July.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Southern Iowa Germplasm Wild Bergamot is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Southern Iowa Germplasm Wild Bergamot did not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of Southern Iowa Germplasm Wild Bergamot include roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Wild bergamot is common on upland to moist prairies, on dry prairies, Loess Hills prairies, roadsides and in open woods. Wild bergamot is found through the eastern and northeastern United States and the central tallgrass prairie.

Availability of Plant Materials: G1 material is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa, Native Roadside Vegetation Center. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or The University of Northern Iowa, Native Roadside Vegetation Center, 113 CEEE, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293 (319 273-3005).

References:

A Field Guide to Wildflowers; pp. 216, 217, Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass, 1968.

An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants, p. 122, Christiansen, P. and Muller, M. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA 1999.

Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie: The Upper Midwest, pp. 216, 217, Runkel, S. T. and Roosa, D. M., Iowa State University Press, Ames IA 1989.

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**Signatures for release of:
Southern Iowa Germplasm Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa* L.)**

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