



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

'Iowa Germplasm' Horsemint (Wild Bergamot) *Monarda fistulosa*, L.

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri



Iowa Gerplasm horsemint, Monarda fistulosa, in full bloom

Iowa Germplasm Horsemint

Monarda fistulosa, L., is a Source Identified Germplasm released in 2007 by the USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center in cooperation with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Iowa Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program (IRVM), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA).

Description

Horsemint is a native perennial forb that grows 2 to 4 feet tall. The stems are square, branched or unbranched, and smooth. The leaves are opposite and oval with rounded bases and long tapering sharp tips; approximately 2 1/2 by 1 inch. Margins are sharply toothed and both leaves and stems have a minty aroma and a gray-green color that may be tinged with purple. Flowers are a corolla purple, tubular, 5/8 inch long, two-lipped, the upper covering the stamens and style and the lower recurved. Calyx is narrow with marginal teeth, 1/4 inch long, flowering from early July to early August. Four nutlets, 1/32 inch in diameter are enclosed by the persistent calyx. Fruiting begins in late July.

Source

Vegetative material was harvested from counties in the central and southern portions of Iowa and taken to the

Elsberry Plant Materials Center for evaluation, selection, and increasing for use in Iowa.

Conservation Uses

Iowa Germplasm horsemint is recommended for roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.



A seedling of horsemint emerges from the soil after germination

Area of Adaptation and Use

Horsemint is common on upland to moist prairies. It can also be found on dry prairies, loess hills prairies along roadside and in open woods. Horsemint is found throughout the eastern and northern United States and in central tallgrass prairies. Iowa Germplasm horsemint was collected from counties across the central and southern portions of Iowa, which suggests the release should be adapted to counties located in the central and southern counties in the state of Iowa.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Prepare a clean weed free seedbed by disking and harrowing or using chemical weed control. Firm the seedbed by cultipacking. Seedbed should be firm enough to allow seed to be planted 1/4 inch deep. Horsemint can

be seeded in the fall and in the spring: if planting is made in the fall, use unstratified seed, if planting is made in the spring, use stratified seed. When making large plantings, use a planter that insures proper seeding depth and good seed and soil contact that is capable of handling and placing seed in a uniform manner. There are approximately 680,000 seeds in a pound of horsemint.

Planting horsemint for seed production can be accomplished using several different row spacing: For solid stand planting, seed the area at a rate of 40 Pure Live Seed (PLS) per square foot or 3.6 pounds PLS per acre. The seeding rate for 30 to 36 inch row should be 40 PLS per linear foot or 1.2 – 1.5 PLS pounds/acre.

Ecological Considerations

Iowa Germplasm horsemint is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm that has been unaltered. Iowa Germplasm horsemint did not meet the assessment of a plant, which could become invasive based on the guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Availability

For conservation use: Backyard Designs, Harlan, Iowa and Hokey's Native Seeds, Linnville, Iowa

For seed or plant increase: Breeder or foundation seed can be obtained for the purpose of large-scale increase, including any limitations on generations, from the USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center (PMC).

For more information, contact:
USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials
Center, 2803 North Highway #79, Phone #
573-898-2012. Fax # 573-898-5019,
website: [http://plant-
materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov)

Fact Sheet for release of Iowa Germplasm horsemint (*Monarda fistulosa*, L.). USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Elsberry Plant Materials Center. Elsberry Missouri 63343. Published [February 2012]

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

Title: Horsemint, Iowa Germplasm horsemint, *Monarda fistulosa*, L., Iowa Germplasm, *Monarda fistulosa*, L. Conservation Plant Release Brochure

Author: USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Missouri

Subject: Iowa Germplasm horsemint, horsemint, *Monarda fistulosa*, L. is a native perennial forb that grows 2 to 4 feet tall. Uses include roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations and restorations landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

Keywords: Conservation Plant Release Brochure, horsemint, *Monarda fistulosa*, L. perennial, forb, native prairie, roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations, restorations, landscaping and increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

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