Wild Bee Balm
Monarda fistulosa

3-4’ x 2-3’ rounded clump-forming wildflower.

CT native, found in woods, thickets, fields.

Lovely fragrant pink-lavender flowers surrounded by equally showy whitish-lavender bracts, in dense heads atop square stems. Long bloom period, July-August.

Sweetly aromatic soft oblong toothed gray-green 3-4” leaves, spreading stems.

Sun to light shade. Dry to moist well-drained soils, prefers rich moisture-retentive soil. Tolerates somewhat-poor soils and some drought. Plants need good air circulation. Easy to grow and adaptable. Remove spent flowers to prolong summer bloom.

A moderate spreader, through underground rhizomes and self-seeding. Ideal for naturalizing, and in optimal areas may form colonies. However, shallow rhizomes are easy to pull up. Also, if you want to discourage self-sowing, cut plants back to ground after flowering.

Beautiful naturalized, in informal plantings. Provides color for the herb garden, wild garden, and meadows. Good for cut and dried flowers. A culinary herb: can boil leaves for tea, and flowers are edible.

A premiere butterfly nectar plant. Attracts hummingbird moths. Attracts bumblebees, and long-tongued bees such as Miner bees, Epoeoline Cuckoo bees, and a small black bee that specializes in pollination of Monardas. Attracts hummingbirds. Attracts birds. Mammals avoid plant.

Photos 1-7: NCC District
Photo 8: Missouri Botanical Garden PlantFinder
https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx
Photo 9: Peter Dziuk, Minnesota Wildflowers
minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/wild-bergamot