



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Monarda citriodora

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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Common name

Horsemint, Lemon mint

Range

Grows in open areas with rocky or sandy soil throughout Texas. There are 12 species native to Texas. *M. citriodora* is a perennial species which grows in a variety of soils in the eastern fourth of Texas.

Life cycle

Annual

Bloom period

Late spring – August. If watered, horsemint will continue flowering through the end of summer and even into September and early October. Its flower varies from white (with small purple spots on the inside of the petals) to deep lavender. The lighter-colored flowers are more commonly found south and east of the Edwards Plateau, while the darker forms occur in the limestone soil of the Edwards Plateau and westward. The purple-flowered form will grow if planted in the range of the light-flowered form.

Soil preference

Well-drained, sandy loam – rocky soils

Exposure

Prefers full sun, but will grow in partial shade

Propagation

Easily grown from seed. Spread the seed evenly and rake into loose topsoil in fall or early spring. Supplemental watering is suggested if spring rains are poor. Provide additional water in May if necessary until the plants reach 10 – 12 inches tall. Once established, *M. citriodora* should reseed itself.

Seeding rate

3 pounds/acre or 1 oz. per 100 sq. ft.
There are approximately 819,000 seeds/pound.



Maintenance

Allow seeds to mature completely (spherical heads become dry and brown) before mowing or cutting down. Since *M. citriodora* is an annual, it is essential this species is allowed to reseed itself for the following year.

Miscellaneous

Horsemint has a distinctive citrus or lemony scent when the leaves are rubbed or crushed, and is a source of citronella, a natural mosquito repellent. It is an excellent species for attracting bees and butterflies.