

## Horsemint (Spotted bee balm)

# *Monarda punctata* L.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)

**Growth Habit:** SubshrubForb/herb

**Duration:** Annual Biennial Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native, eastern and some south-western U.S.

**Natural Enemies Attracted:** Large numbers of *Cantharidae* and *Plagiognathus politus*. Medium numbers of *Orius insidiosus*, *Thomisidae*, and *Chalcidoidea*. Small numbers of *Cynipoidea*, *Carabidae*, *Chlamydatus associatus*, *Coccinellidae*, *Salticidae*, *Braconidae* and *Bethylinidae*.

**Pests Attracted:** Large numbers of lygus bugs and leaf beetles. Medium numbers of leafhoppers. Small numbers of thrips and weevils.

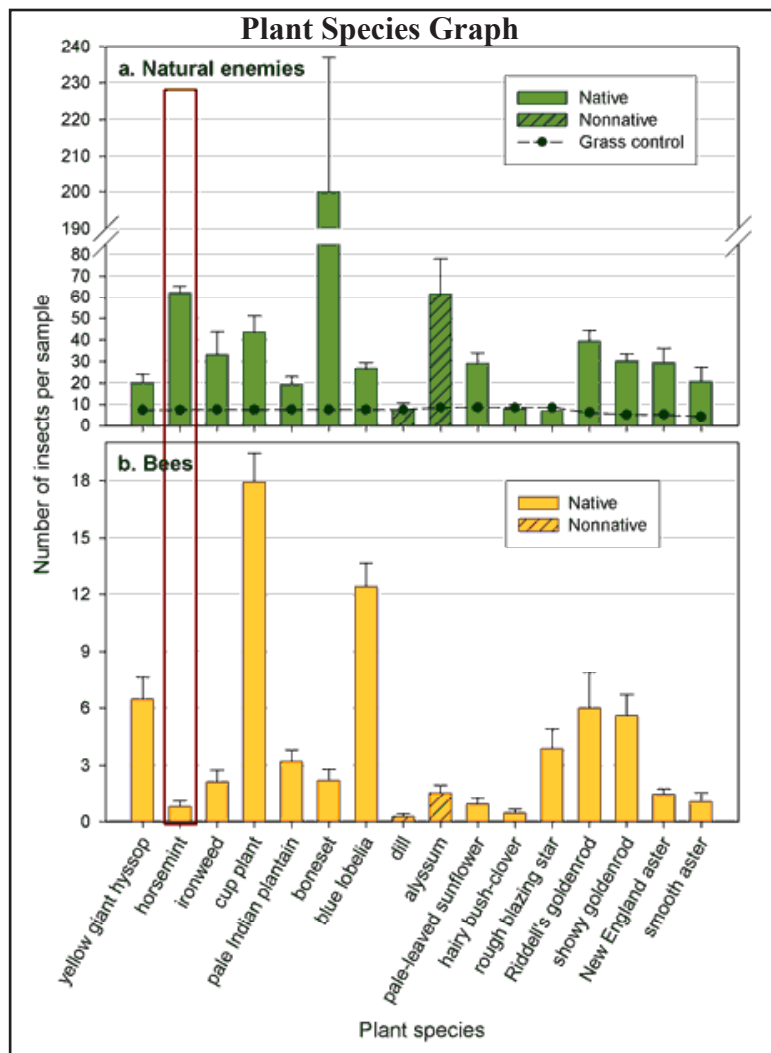
**Bees attracted:** Moderate numbers (between 1-5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including large carpenter bees, digger bees, and bumble bees.

**Species Notes:** Pale yellow flowers with maroon spots are less visible than the white to pale pink leaves that surround them. Plants remained small in stature and branched out by the third growing season. A large number did not overwinter from their second to third season of growth. Plants bloomed throughout August. This species was the second most attractive to natural enemies in the late season, with six times as many natural enemies as the grass control.



### About the Plant Species Graph:

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



**Habitat:** Includes full sun to partial sun, and very dry to average soil moisture. Naturally occurring in sandy areas such as dunes, fields, and relic prairies. Often found in disturbed areas including along railroads and roadsides, and in waste places. May be associated with oak and pine woodlands.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in third year) or plug material (flowers in second year). This species is tolerant of extremely dry conditions.

**Availability:** Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

**For more information:** View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

