

GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

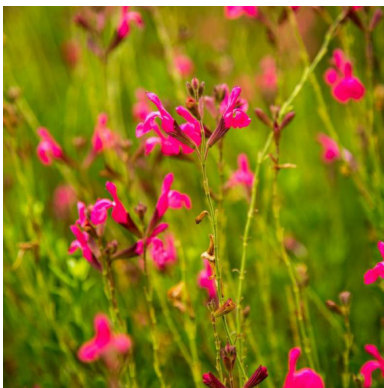
May 12, 2023 **Mint Family Tour**



Common Name: Beebalm

Botanical Name: *Monarda fistulosa*

This Oklahoma native perennial has a wide range of uses. It is tolerant of drought, hard clay soil, deer and will grow in full sun to part shade. Its pale lavender, tubular flowers are arranged in a globe shape on top of two to four foot stems. As per the mint family, the lance shaped gray-green leaves are arranged in opposite pairs. Its leaves can be used to brew a tea similar in taste and smell to earl grey tea. Powdery mildew is very prevalent in monardas, so good air circulation should be encouraged.



Common Name: Autumn Sage

Botanical Name: *Salvia greggii* 'Pink Preference'

Autumn sage is a popular flowering perennial for hot, dry areas. It's a low grower with aromatic foliage that is said to quicken the senses. Its brightly colored flowers are made up of two lips. The upper lip is curled in a tight hood while the lower lip, which resembles a flowing dress, is broad and stands out like a billboard to pollinators.



Common Name: Chastetree

Botanical Name: *Vitex agnus-castus* 'Shoal Creek'

The chastetree can quickly grow to over 20 feet high and wide in the heat of Oklahoma. An abundance of lilac flowers grace the plant in midsummer, followed by attractive gray seed heads. It flowers on the current year's growth, so it can be easily pruned to a manageable size without sacrificing blooms. The cultivar 'Shoal Creek' has vigorous growth and larger, more intense blue-purple flowers than other varieties.



Common Name: Russian Sage

Botanical Name: *Salvia yangii*

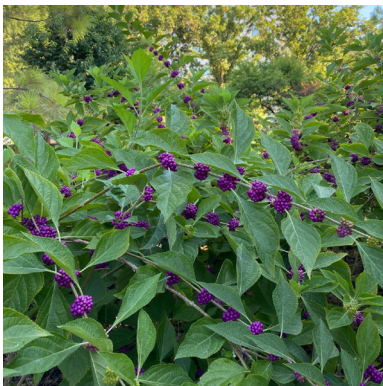
Admired for both its silvery-gray foliage and lavender flowers, Russian sage is a low input, high output perennial. It will rarely need watered once established and is a heavy bloomer from summer to fall. The semi-woody stems can be left up for winter-interest but should be trimmed back 6 to 8 inches from the ground in spring. Although named as a sage, it is no longer classified in the sage genus, *Salvia*. And it is not a sage for culinary use, though it does have a similar aroma. This perennial grows to a height of 3-4 feet, but there are several shorter cultivars as well. It is great in mass but also a superb companion for perennials and ornamental grasses.



Common Name: Giant Hyssop

Botanical Name: *Agastache 'Blue Fortune'*

This herbaceous perennial forms spikes of small lavender-blue tubular flowers, which are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. The foliage has a peppermint-lemon scent when brushed against or crushed. This plant is most commonly used in patio containers or mixed perennial plantings and flowers during the summer time.



Common Name: American Beautyberry

Botanical Name: *Callicarpa americana*

American beautyberry is a large understory shrub with a naturally loose and arching form. In the fall and early winter, the branches are laden with magenta purple (sometimes white) berry clusters that hang on after the leaves drop. It is useful as a screen in swampy or wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting. If desired, it can be cut to 12" above the base each winter to encourage more compact growth, flowers and fruit. During periods of prolonged summer drought, it may temporarily lose its leaves and developing fruit.



Common Name: Catmint

Botanical Name: *Nepeta 'Cat's Pajamas'*

The genus *Nepeata* contains over 250 species native to Europe, Asia, and Africa. Most catmints are aromatic with whirls of blue, lavender or white flowers and are drought tolerant. 'Cats Pajamas' is a compact cultivar which features lavender-blue flowers and boasts an earlier bloom time than most other varieties. It flowers from late spring to early summer. This plant is attractive for butterflies and other pollinators.



Common Name: Betony

Botanical Name: *Stachys officinalis* 'Hummelo'

This Betony cultivar is a very tidy and steady performing perennial. It grows up to two feet and stays in a tight clump. The bright pink inflorescences are dense with flowers and grow all summer long into the fall. The foliage has a scalloped edge, long petioles and a pungent scent when crushed. 'Hummelo' was named Perennial Plant of the Year in 2019 by the Perennial Plant Association.



Common Name: Scarlet Betony

Botanical Name: *Stachys coccinea*

Scarlet betony is an exceptional member of the Mint family. Its red blooms distinguish it from the typical blue flowers of other mint related plants. A great selection for a low maintenance garden, scarlet betony will grow in shaded exposure, although it thrives best in the sun. This North American native perennial will bloom all summer and is much loved by hummingbirds.



Common Name: Meadow Sage

Botanical Name: *Salvia nemorosa* 'Pink Profusion'

The spike-shaped pink flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators to this wood sage. Growing less than 2 feet tall with an upright habit, it can add a splash of color to the front of a garden bed. Meadow sage first blooms in late spring with a dense cluster of flower spikes and will rebloom during the summer. Once established, meadow sage is tough and dependable tolerating heat, humidity and drought.



Common Name: Skullcap

Botanical Name: *Scutellaria x* 'Dark Violet'

This scutellaria, or skullcap, hybrid is a sun loving perennial. It will thrive in poor quality soils and dry conditions. This makes it a great selection for xeric, or waterwise, gardening. This semi-woody perennial remains quite tidy; it stays under ten inches tall and spreads out to a little over a foot and a half wide. 'Dark Violet' will bloom the majority of the summer and is a perfect selection for the front of a mixed border. Cutting this perennial back low in the spring will ensure thick and vigorous growth.

