

MONARDA PUNCTATA L.
Dotted Horsemint

FAMILY: Lamiaceae.

HABIT: Erect, herbaceous perennial, 3-10 dm.; flowering July-October; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: No other member of this distinctive genus in Ohio has large yellow flowers spotted with purple.

TOTAL RANGE: MI to e. MN, s. to IL and MO, and also near Lake Champlain in VT and NY.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 collections from Fulton, Lucas, and Wood counties. There are pre-1980 records from Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Highland, and Montgomery counties.

HABITAT: Dry, sandy soils in open to semi-open areas.

HAZARDS: Although tolerant of some shade (see Comments), this species is probably eliminated in late successional stages.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, perhaps good since it occurs in disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering material.

COMMENTS: Although this plant reaches its maximum growth in full sun, at least one study (Whitford and Whitford, 1978) has shown that it has a high degree of tolerance of open shade.

When in flower, this species is conspicuous and easily identified, but it is easily overlooked at other seasons. It should be sought throughout the state. Not all Ohio populations may be of native origin, but the species is probably indigenous to the state. The Cuyahoga county population, as well as those from some of the older records, may be adventive.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Sabo, R.F. 1965. The Labiatae of Ohio. M.A. Thesis. Kent State Univ., Kent, OH. 168 p.

Whitford, P.C. and P.B. Whitford. 1978. Effects of trees on ground cover in old-field succession. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 99: 435-443.



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