

Plant Fact Sheet

Narrowleaf mountainmint ***Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* Schrad.** **PYTE**



Contributed by: USDA/NRCS East Texas Plant Materials Center

Uses

Narrowleaf mountainmint has showy flowers and is suitable for cut flowers. The plant is browsed by deer and the seeds are eaten by wildlife.

Description

Narrowleaf mountainmint is a native warm season perennial forb. It is a member of the Lamiaceae (mint) family. When the flowers or leaves are crushed, they emit a minty scent. The plant grows 2 to 3 feet tall and spreads 2 to 3 feet wide. Like other mints, it has a four angled stem and small opposite leaves. The leaves are approximately 1/16" wide and 1/2" to 2 inches long. The stems of the plant are hairless. The plant has profuse clusters of small, white flowers which bloom in July through August. Seed matures in late September.

Adaptation

The area for adaptation is the Midwest, Great Plains and southeastern United States. The plant has wide climatic adaptation. Narrowleaf mountainmint prefers dry to medium wet soils and full sun to partial shade. In the South it is commonly found growing in ditches, stump holes and moist sites. Narrowleaf mountainmint is also found growing in dry prairies and upland forest sites.

Establishment

Prepare a clean, firm seedbed in the spring. Spring planting dates for the East Texas Plant Materials Center service area are March 1st to May 15th. To reduce competition, control weeds before planting. Narrowleaf mountainmint produces a very small seed, therefore be careful not to plant seed too deep. The planting rate is not known.



Management

Narrowleaf mountainmint is a low maintenance plant. The plants may not flower until the second or third year after seeding.

Pests and Potential Problems

Narrowleaf mountainmint is noted as not having serious insect or disease problems.

Availability

Seed and plant material of narrowleaf mountainmint can be found at native plant nurseries. Some native nurseries are growing potted plant materials for native landscaping.

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References

Grelen, H.E. and R.H. Hughes. Common Herbaceous Plants of Southern Forest Range, US Forest Service, SO-210, 1984.

Hatch, S.L., K.N. Gandhi, L.E. Brown 1990. Checklist of the vascular plants of Texas- MP-1655. Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station.

Missouri Botanical Garden. *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*. In: Missouri Botanical Garden. URL: <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Plant.asp?code=R690> (accessed 3 September 2004).

USDA.NRCS.2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

For more information about this and other conservation plants, please contact your local NRCS Field Office or Conservation District, or visit Plant Materials Program website at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> and the PLANTS website at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

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