

Garden Notes

September 2025



Spotted Horsemint

There are several *Monarda* selections that gardeners should grow. The Spotted horsemint, *Monarda punctata*, offers visual interest, fragrant leaves, and a good food source for pollinators.

The colorful part of Horsemint are the bracts (specialized leaves) with small flowers nestled in between. Plants grow upright to about 3 feet. Use in full sun or partial shade areas. Plants like well drained soils but benefit from water when rainfall is lacking. Plants may freeze back in North Florida but often return in spring.

Read Your Soil Bag Ingredients

While getting garden beds ready for Fall planting, make sure you are adding the amendments you need. If you need soil, most bagged products don't actually contain any soil. They are a varied mix of peat, forest products, coir, compost, fertilizers, wetting agents, and various litters.



Diagnostics Part II

One of the first steps in diagnosing is to know what is normal for a plant. This plant was diagnosed with witches broom. What you are seeing are actually old cones on a Podocarpus, which is normal. Instead of a chemical treatment, the planting depth needs adjusting along with improved irrigation.

