

Discovery Garden

featured plant for

September

Anise Hyssop

Agastache foeniculum

Also known as blue giant hyssop, fragrant giant hyssop, and lavender giant hyssop, this self-seeding herbaceous perennial has attractive upright flower spikes and fragrant foliage that make it a great addition to any bee-friendly herb garden or tea garden.

A member of the mint family, anise hyssop produces opposite leaves along its square stems (a characteristic of the mint plant family). The leaves have an oval, toothed shape with a white tint underneath. New growth often has a subtle purple coloration.

Flower spikes begin forming in the middle of summer and continue through fall, until frost arrives. The spent flowers can be bagged to save seeds for the next planting season, or left on the plant as a treat for goldfinches and other songbirds.

Native to prairies, upland forests and fields, this plant is resistant to deer and drought. It is often considered one of the premier plants for helping local pollinators.

Fun Facts:

- It's been said that one square acre of anise hyssop plants could support 100 honeybee hives.
- The aromatic leaves have a licorice-like (anise) scent and is often used in herbal teas, potpourri, and can be added to salads.
- Anise hyssop has been used medicinally by Native Americans for congestion, coughs, fevers, wound sterilization, and indigestion.



Best Viewing Months:
June until first frost

Growing Size:
2-4 feet tall and 1-2 feet wide,
in a clumping, upright shape

Pollinators:
Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees,
and night flying moths

Hands On!
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