

Coastalplain balm

(*Dicerandra linearifolia*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Coastalplain balm is a striking wildflower found in sandhill and scrub habitats in North Florida, Southern Georgia and Southern Alabama. In fall, when in bloom, a single plant may have up to 100 or more bright to pale pink flowers. This creates beautiful fields abuzz with happy bees feasting on nectar and pollinating the plants. Not only is this scene pleasant on the eyes, but the plants also have a wonderful minty aroma that fills the air around them.



Photo by Emily Bell

Plants reach only about 1 foot in height and are profusely branched. The flowers are born in whorls along terminal spikes. They are bright to light pink with dark pink spots and stripes, and an elongated filament, stigma and style. Leaves are linear and also arranged in whorls.

The genus *Dicerandra* is endemic to ancient sandhill habitats in the Southeast US and are extremely specialized to the growing conditions of these sites. Even in its limited distribution, Coastalplain balm has one of the widest ranges among the 11 species in this genus. They are also very difficult to cultivate due to their strict growing requirements.

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint family)

Native range: North Florida from Calhoun County east to Suwannee County.

To see where natural populations of Coastalplain balm have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 8B–9A

Lifespan: Annual

Soil: Well-drained sand

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: Herbaceous, up to 1 foot tall

Propagation: Seed

Coastalplain balm is not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see it.



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