

Agastache

Agastache, commonly known as anise hyssop, is a striking perennial in the mint family. It is not as invasive as other members of the mint family, but may spread by rhizomes and seeds. Agastache has tall, spiky, showy flowers and comes in many colors, the most common being shades of purple, blue, and pink, depending on the variety.

Agastache is well suited to Ocean County and the shore area. Plant in full sun to partial shade. Well-drained soils are a requirement for this plant since wet soils may promote root rot. Plants can grow 2-5 ft tall with spikes of very small tubular flowers 3-6 in. long. Agastache is drought and heat resistant once established. Water occasionally.

Agastache has a long blooming period, from late July through autumn. Use as cut flowers, either fresh or dried. Dead-head plants until late summer to promote additional blooms. Plants usually do not have serious insect or disease problems although powdery mildew can occur. Space plants 12-36 in. apart to allow good air circulation.

The green foliage has toothed margins and an anise (licorice) scent. Seeds are valuable as a winter food source for birds. It is a wonderful pollinator plant and attracts many bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. The straight species is the most attractive to pollinators, but some cultivars are also pollinator magnets. Think about planting one of the suggestions below.

Cultivars	Height	Flower Color
'Blue Blazes'	3-5 ft	Lavender flowers
'Blue Fortune'	2-3 ft	Long bloom period; great for pollinators
'Golden Jubilee'	2-3 ft	Lavender-blue flowers with gold to lime green foliage
'Black Adder'	2-3 ft	Red-violet flowers; good for pollinators
'Apricot Sunrise'	2-3 ft	Tubular orange-apricot flowers; grows as an annual in Ocean County
'Blue Boa'	2.5-3 ft	Purple flowers

This plant is well suited for perennial borders, herb gardens, butterfly gardens, and cottage gardens. It is also deer and rabbit resistant. Agastache is a showy, low maintenance plant to add to your garden.

Checklist for July

Flower and Vegetable Garden

- ✓ Check containers and hanging baskets daily for water needs.
- ✓ Pinch back ends of leggy basket plants.
- ✓ Apply a slow-release fertilizer to encourage annuals to continue blooming.
- ✓ Water early in the morning when little water is lost to evaporation. Use soaker hoses around plantings to reduce water use by 25-50%.
- ✓ Prune and fertilize climbing roses after bloom. [See Rutgers Fact Sheet FS944](#) "Roses and Their Care."
- ✓ Monitor vegetables for symptoms of blight or fungus.

Trees and Shrubs

- ✓ Maintain a 3 in. mulch layer around trees and shrubs.
- ✓ Consider drip irrigation and soaker hoses with timers for efficient watering practices.
- ✓ Monitor all plants for insect damage. Sunny, hot weather may add stress.

Lawn

- ✓ Wait until fall to fertilize. [See Rutgers Fact Sheet FS102](#) "Your Lawn and Its Care."