

Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

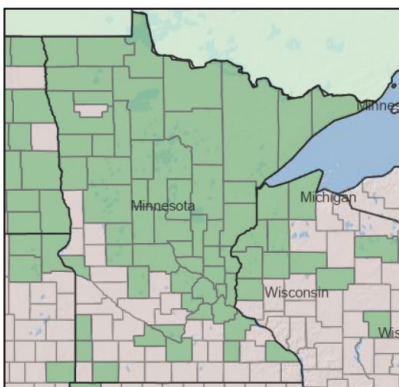
Family: Lamiaceae
(Mint)

DESCRIPTION: The common name of this drought-resistant, hardy perennial, also known as blue giant hyssop, refers to the strong licorice scent its leaves emanate when crushed — a scent that deters rabbits and deer. Spikes of lavender-colored flowers bloom from June into September.

USES: A favorite among pollinators including native bees, honeybees, butterflies (pictured: **great spangled fritillary**) and hummingbirds, anise hyssop establishes quickly and produces an abundance of seeds, which makes it a popular choice for upland grassland restorations. Its leaves can be used to make tea. Native Americans historically used its leaves to treat coughs, fevers, wounds and digestion problems.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



Planting Recommendations

Anise hyssop prefers full to partial sun and medium to medium-dry, well-drained soils. Seeds require at least 30 days of cold, moist conditions and sunlight to germinate, which can

be achieved through dormant surface seeding in the fall. Live plants should be spaced 12 to 16 inches apart. While not as aggressive as other mints, anise hyssop readily re-seeds.

Developed by Sara Reagan, an easement programs coordinator at BWSR who works with the RIM program

Plant Photo Credit: Sara Reagan
Insect Photo Credit: Dan Shaw



STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: FAC

ID: Clusters of lavender-colored flowers form spikes 1 to 6 inches long. Those individual flowers grow a third of an inch long, with four long stamens. Plants grow 2 to 4 feet tall, and can produce multiple spikes of flowers. Toothed leaves grow up to 4 inches long and 2 inches wide, with fine hairs covering their gray undersides. Like all members of the mint family, the plants have square stems.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Purple giant hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariifolia*) is more shade-tolerant. It grows 3 to 6 feet tall, and the undersides of its leaves are green.