Betony
*Stachys monieri* ‘Hummelo’

2019 Perennial Plant of the Year

9-12” rounded mounds, 1.5-2’ in flower. Stolons gradually creep and root at the ground surface, forming a dense attractive ground cover.

Betony ‘Hummelo’ received the highest rating out of 22 Stachys studied in the Plant Evaluation Trials at the Chicago Botanic Garden, for its strong flower production, vigor, habit quality and winter hardiness.

Native to Europe and Asia.

Spectacular display of a profusion of upright dense sturdy spikes, crowded with tiny two-lipped vivid rose-lavender flowers, atop stems that rise well above the foliage, to 1.5-2’. Late June through August, with the main flush in July.

4-6” glossy long narrow puckered dark green leaves, with scalloped edges and a rounded tip. Foliage merges as a basal rosette, then grows into clumps that remain lovely all season, even out of flower.

Full sun to part shade. Prefers full sun, with some light afternoon shade in the heat of summer. Average to moist well-drained soils. Prefers evenly moist soil. Keep well watered during the first season. Tolerates some drought once well-established. Very easy to grow, trouble-free, dependable. Spent flower spikes can be removed for tidier look and possible re-blooming, or can be left for winter interest. Plants can be cut back hard, just after flowering, for a flush of new growth. Shovel out sections creeping beyond where you want them at any time. Dig, divide, and replant sections in early spring should you want to speed up the covering of ground. Plant 12-18” apart for use as a ground cover. Divide in spring every 3-4 years, when plants become woody in the center. Easily divided. Appreciates a scattering of organic fertilizer annually.

Unique long-blooming perennial for borders, cottage gardens, informal areas, on slopes, as edging, as groundcover. Wonderful in masses. Good cut flower. Mixes well with most other flower colors in the garden.

Attractive to bees and hummingbirds.

Deer and rabbit resistant.

Photo 1: North Creek Nurseries
northcreeknurseries.com
Photos 2, 4: Walter Gardens
waltersgardens.com/variety.php?ID=STAHU
Photos 3, 5: MO Botanical Garden Plantfinder
missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfinder-search.aspx
Photos 6-10: Susan Mahr, University of Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, Division of Extension
https://wimastergardener.org/article/stachys-hummelo/