

Mentha spicata L., SPEARMINT. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, clonal, fibrous-rooted, many-stemmed at base, erect, 50–130 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, with sessile glandular hairs, strongly aromatic when crushed. **Stems:** 4-sided, to 3 mm diameter, green, with scattered straight hairs (mostly near nodes) and spheric glandular hairs with colorless heads. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate with pair connected by ledges across node, without stipules; petiole typically 1–3 mm long (to 5 mm long on lower leaves), with scattered hairs; blade ovate or elliptic to broadly lanceolate or oblong, 20–90 × 10–35 mm, obtuse or tapered at base, serrate on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, having an elaborate netlike venation, abundant glandular-hairy, upper surface with nonglandular hairs along principal veins, lower surface with lateral veins decurrent on midrib. **Inflorescence:** panicle of spikelike clusters of condensed axillary cymes paired at nodes (verticils), flowering array 20–90+ × 6–10 mm, each cyme 12–20-flowered, bracteate, glandular-hairy with colorless, sessile glandular hairs aging red; axis internodes between verticils short with the basal internode the longest and 5–9(–14) mm long, distinctly 4 ridged; bract subtending peduncle linear-lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate-acuminate, to 7 mm long, bract subtending lateral branchlet to 4 mm long, typically with a linear lobe on outer margin; branchlet subtending pedicel linear, to 2 mm long; pedicel ± 1 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 2–2.5 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, in range 1.5–2 mm long, 10-veined; tube 0.8–1 mm long, with glandular hairs in vertical rows; lobes unequal with lower lobe > others, acuminate, ≤ tube length, ciliate on margins; **corolla** unequally ± 2-lipped, 5-lobed, ± funnel-shaped but slightly flattened top-to-bottom, in range 3–3.5 mm long, white, pink, or lavender, glandular-hairy on back of lobes; tube ± 1.5 mm long, expanding from base to orifice; upper lip indistinctly 2-lobed, ca. 1.3 × 1.4 mm, lobes roundish, 1 mm, with faint parallel veins, shallowly notched between lobe tips; lower lip distinctly 3-lobed, lobes ovate, ± 1–1.2 mm long; **stamens** 4, fused to corolla throat, ± equal, exerted slightly beyond throat; filaments 0.4–0.8 mm long, same color as corolla; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, < 0.5 mm long, reddish brown and light yellow brown, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, strongly 4-lobed, the lobes narrowly ovoid to ellipsoid, 2-chambered, each lobe with 1 ovule; style exerted, attached to ovary base at center of ovary lobes (gynobasic), 3.5–4 mm long, same color as corolla, 2-branched near tip, the branches slightly unequal, ± 0.5 mm long, recurving, stigmatic on inner edge near tip. **Fruits:** (typically sterile in range) nutlets, 4, ovoid, < 1 mm long. Early August–mid-October.

Naturalized. Perennial herb escaped from cultivated and found occasionally along moist creek beds in SMM, where the plant clones via rhizomes. Many hybrids and clones of spearmint are cultivated, and some of these may be found in range if established when rhizomes are uprooted and transported downstream from homes during rainstorms. *Mentha spicata* lacks nonglandular hairs, and our local plants have short petioles, whereas the species is commonly described as having leaves that are essentially sessile. If recognized, our populations would be var. *spicata*.
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