

Seed Share

at Main Library in Hillsborough



OrangeCountyLibrary.org

Main Library at 137 West Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278



NC native perennial



prefers part shade but
will tolerate full sun



cold stratify & spring
sow or sow in fall



likes rich, loamy soil;
resents consistent
dryness



blooms in summer &
in the second year



hummingbird & pollinator
favorite; resists deer

Growing Instructions

To direct sow in the fall, press into the surface of the soil. For spring planting, mix the seed with moist sand and store it in the refrigerator for 60 days before pressing onto the soil surface. Germination should take a week. Medium to moist soil is best for this plant, but as it matures it becomes somewhat drought tolerant. Plant blooms from seed in its second year and reseeds itself readily.

Garden like it's 1776!

A little colonial plant lore for the nation's 250th birth year

Botanical Illustration, 1781 by Nikolaus Jacquin

Indigenous Peoples first introduced yellow giant hyssop to colonists as a remedy for treating poison ivy rash, but it gained horticultural interest for its attractiveness to bees in both wild and cultivated settings. Compared to its licorice-scented and lavender-flowered relative, the anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), giant yellow hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*) is much more subtly colored and scented. However its long flowering periods and abundant production of nectar make it highly attractive to bees. This trait gained it a subtle appreciation in gardens and among beekeepers. By the late 1800s its cultivation had become widespread in the Midwest and Southeast.

