

# Plant "Imagination"



*Chelone lyonii* 'Hotlips' (Turtlehead)

**Chelone** (rhymes with "baloney")

Rose-pink flowers perk up the garden when this stunning herbaceous perennial begins to flower in late summer to autumn. Lustrous, coarsely-toothed, lance-shaped dark green leaves add another attractive feature during the growing season. 'Hot Lips' Turtlehead thrives in rich, moist soil and light shade; however, it is remarkably tolerant of dry conditions. This species of Turtlehead is a stiffly erect, clump-forming perennial typically growing 2-3' tall.

It occurs in moist woods, swampy areas and along streams. You may pinch back in May to produce a bushier plant. Flowers purportedly resemble turtle heads. An excellent choice for growing in container's, it is also deer resistant as well as a butterfly host plant. **If you go** to the Minnesota State Fair you will find this plant in full bloom in the Minnesota Water Garden Society garden next to the Horticulture building. I redesigned this garden last year.