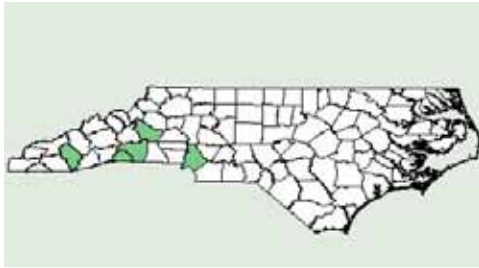


PURPLE CONEFLOWER

Echinacea purpurea

One of the most popular herbs today in both North America and Europe.



Description: Purple coneflower is a showy, clump forming herbaceous perennial that dies to the ground in winter and sprouts back in spring. Established clumps can be up to 3 ft in diameter and just as tall. The dark green leaves are coarse and sandpapery, usually lance shaped, and 3-8 in long. Blooms June – August.

Natural Habitat: Well-drained soil; sun; dry, open woods

Conservation Status: Michigan –Probably Extirpated

Size: 3 ft.

Growth Rate: Moderate

Light: Best in full sun, but will tolerate part shade

Planting and Care: Set plants 1 ft. apart. Mulch around, but not on top of, the plants with 3 inches of organic compost. Once established is drought tolerant. Deadheading prolongs bloom time. It can reseed itself readily if conditions are ideal.

Ornamental Value: The daisy like flower heads, up to 3 in across, are very attractive with rose purple rays and large, cone-shaped purple brown centers.

Landscape Usage: Use in beds, mixed borders, butterfly gardens or in the native wildflower patch. The long lasting flowers, borne on long, stiff stems, are perfect in cut flower arrangements and well suited for drying.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Native Americans used it to treat insect and snake bites, and as a toothache remedy. Today, taken orally, extracts from purple coneflower roots and leaves are reported to stimulate the immune system and increase resistance to infections. In Europe today, more than 200 pharmaceutical products are made from the extracts.

Wildlife Benefits: Butterflies sip nectar from purple coneflowers all summer long as well as bees. The seed heads provide food for birds.