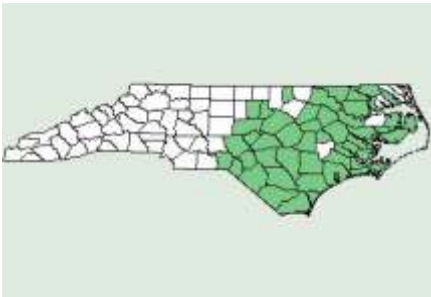


# PRARIE CONEFLOWER

*Ratibida columnifera*

***Aka Mexican hat, Prairie coneflower, Upright prairie coneflower, Red-spike mexican-hat, Long-headed coneflower, Thimbleflower***



**Description:** A drought tolerant ornamental perennial flower that withstands competition. Foliage is strong smelling and is said to repel deer. There are 2 species of *Ratibida columnifera*, one all yellow and one with red ray flowers (petals) touched with yellow.

**Natural Habitat:** Along roadsides and open waste ground.

**Conservation Status:** Is it threatened or endangered in NC or any other state.

**Size:** 1 – 3 ft.

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Light:** Sun

**Planting and Care:** Various well-drained soils, Clay Loam, Medium Loam, Sandy Loam, Sandy. Easy to grow from seed and should be planted in the fall. If they are placed in winter storage for spring planting, they should be stratified with a cold dry treatment.

**Ornamental Value:** The Mexican hat blooms from late spring to early fall. The flowers are long-lasting and are excellent as cut flower, keeping for 5 to 10 days in water.

**Landscape Usage:** CAUTION: it grows aggressively and may push out other weaker species. Used in wildflower meadow, perennial garden, rocky hillside, or as a patio pot plant.

**Commercial/Traditional Uses:** Makes a great cut flower. Tea made from leaves and stalks used for stomach ache and pain in side. Tea from flower used for headache. Boiled leaves and stems used as wash for snakebite and poison ivy.

**Wildlife Benefits:** Attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds.