



Caption

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Genus name of *Echinacea* comes from the Greek word *echinos* meaning hedgehog or sea urchin in reference to the spiny center flower cone. The blooming period begins in mid-summer. Later, some plants will bloom again during the early fall.

Honeybees and bumblebees pollinate the flowers. Butterfly visitors include Monarchs, Fritillaries, Painted Ladies, Swallowtails, Sulfurs, and Whites. The plant grows to 2-5 feet. The light green stems have small purple streaks and scattered white hairs. The purple coneflower is similar to the pale purple coneflower, except that it has wider petals and leaves.

An adaptable plant that does well in shade and in full sun. It is also tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and poor soils. The dead flower stems will remain erect well into the winter and visited by goldfinches or other birds that feed on the seeds.

Resources

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c580>

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pur_coneflowerx.htm

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ECPU