

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Plant Description:

This hardy perennial produces daisy-like flowers which have a cone center surrounded by horizontal or drooping petals in shades of pink, lavender, and purple. The flowers are displayed during spring and summer on top of strong, 2-4 foot tall stems which are known to withstand both wind and rain. A magnet for butterflies, this native plant is a must-have for butterfly gardens, cottage gardens, and equally good for traditional beds and borders.

Mature Size: 1-3 feet tall; 2-3 foot spread

Growth Rate: Moderate to Fast

Plant Habit: Upright

Plant Spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Ornamental Characteristics & Uses:

Foliage Color: Green

Flower Color: Pink, Lavender, Purple

Bloom Time: Spring and Summer

Attracts Wildlife: Butterflies and other insect pollinators

Uses: Landscape beds/borders; naturalizing; wildlife gardens; cut flowers



Growing Requirements:

Cold Hardiness Zone(s): 4 – 10

Exposure: Partial Sun – Shade

Water Needs: Moderate

Soil Tolerances: Moderately Drought Tolerant;
Tolerates Occasionally Wet Soil

Soil pH: Slightly acidic to alkaline

Maintenance: Easy/Low



General Care & Growing Tips:

Coneflower performs best in light shade since protection from late afternoon sun improves drought tolerance and enhances flower and foliage color. In full sun, the plant will require additional water. Remove fading blooms to encourage more flowers and divide clumps every few years to keep plants vigorous. Many cultivars are available in a variety of colors including yellow, red, orange, and white.

Common Pests:

Watch for whiteflies and powdery mildew. Fungal leaf spots may appear during wet weather.

References:

Gilman, E. F. (1999). *Echinacea purpurea* Purple Coneflower. University of Florida.
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp192>

Park Brown, S. and Schoellhorn, R. K. (2006). Your Florida Guide to Perennials. University Press of Florida.

Photo Credit: Alicia Lamborn