

Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Formerly known as *Rudbeckia purpurea*, purple coneflower displays wonderful daisy-like, pink flowers on top of strong, hairy stems that stand against the wind and rain. Flowers stand 1 to 3 feet tall, well above the medium-green foliage. The large flowers have a dark purple center with a variety of outer-flower colors from pink and lavender to purple. Coneflowers with white flowers also exist. Flowers appear in spring and summer in central Florida and in the summer elsewhere in the eastern U.S. It is especially useful in light shade in summer, where protection from afternoon sun enhances flower and foliage color. It is fairly tolerant of drought in the partial shade, less so in full sun. Roots have been used to treat rabies, snakebites, skin diseases, and other ailments.

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 10

Uses: naturalizing; cut flowers; edging; attracts butterflies; mass planting; planters

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 1 to 3 feet **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Light requirement: shade to part sun

Soil tolerances: medium to well-drained; occasionally wet; acidic to alkaline; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

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Photo: UF/IFAS