

Pale Purple Coneflower

(*Echinacea pallida*)

Prepared By:

Ben Bonar

Pale Purple Coneflower is one of Iowa's most iconic prairie plant species. Growing up to 3 feet tall, this plant easily stands out in diverse prairies due to its light purple flowers. This plant prefers mesic to dry soils that are well drained. They are also extremely drought tolerant once their taproot is formed.

Many prairie plants have unique associations with other prairie species. Pale Purple Coneflower is an excellent nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies. Its leaves are also a necessary food source for the larva of the Ottoe-skipper butterfly.

Pale Purple Coneflower Quick Facts:

- Classification: Forb
- Life Cycle: Perennial
- Flower Color: Purple
- Bloom Time: June, July
- Soil Preference: Mesic to Dry
- Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Ottoe-skipper Butterfly



Pale Purple Coneflower can make an excellent addition to landscaping, rain gardens and native prairie reconstructions. However, there are a variety of ways you can get them started!

There are three different ways that you can establish native prairie plants on your site. These include starting them from seed, plugs or bare root plants. Each can be bought from native plant nurseries around the state. Starting from seed is the most difficult but often is more cost-effective. Plugs are young prairie plants that are grown in small pots and come ready to transplant. Finally, bare root plants are mature plants that have been grown for the intention of transplanting. They often come packaged in soil and must be planted as soon as possible.

Gardening Tips