

purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Purple coneflower is also known as broad-leaved purple coneflower. This perennial herb has a woody taproot. One to several stems are present. Stems are mostly unbranched, rough and hairy. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf is toothed, rough and lance-shaped. The lower leaves are on long stalks. The large flower heads contain both disk (fertile) and ray (usually sterile) flowers. The pink to red-purple rays point toward the ground. The fruits are hard, dry and four-angled. Purple coneflower may attain a height of two to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Purple coneflower may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in open woods and dry to moist prairies. Flowers are produced from July through August.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; gravel prairie; hill prairie

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