

purple prairie clover *Dalea purpurea*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Rosales

Family: Fabaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Purple prairie clover is a perennial herb that may have several stems growing from a single base. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stems. These pinnately compound leaves are divided into five to seven narrow leaflets. The pink-purple flowers develop in spikes (three-fourths to one and one-half inches long) at the tip of the stem. The fruit is a pod that contains seeds. Purple prairie clover may attain a height of one to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Purple prairie clover may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in dry to moist prairies. Flowers are produced from June through August. This plant is an important food source for grazing animals of the prairie.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie

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