

American pasqueflower (*Anemone patens*)

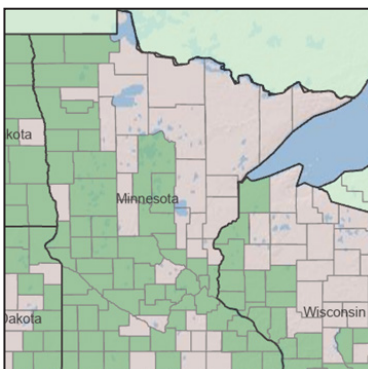
Family: Buttercup (*Ranunculaceae*)

DESCRIPTION: One of the first plants to emerge and bloom in the spring, pasqueflower has upright, bell-shaped flowers that develop shortly after the first downy leaves appear. Plants grow 5 to 8 inches tall, blooming in March and April. Most often found on prairie hillsides and outcroppings with dry, nutrient-poor soils, the species ranges across most of Minnesota.

USES: Pasqueflower works well in dry prairie restorations, native plant gardens and rain gardens' side slopes. It thrives on garden edges with enough sun and less competition from other plants. It's an important early pollen source for many species of native bees. After drying, all parts of the plant have medicinal uses. It's been used to treat rheumatism, skin conditions, headaches and lung disorders.

REFERENCES:

[U.S. Forest Service](#)
[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)



Range Map Credit: NRCS Plants Database



Photo Credit: Tony Randazzo

STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: None

ID: Pale purple to white flowers up to 2 inches wide consist of five to eight petal-like sepals and many yellow stamens. Palmately divided leaves grow in whorls of three. Basal leaves develop after the bloom. Long, silky hairs cover stems and leaves.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Thimbleweed (*Anemone cylindrica*) and Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*) have white flowers and divided leaves, but lack long, silky hairs, and bloom in summer. Some nurseries sell European pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) or a Western U.S. species (*Pulsatilla occidentalis*).

Planting Recommendations

Pasqueflowers can be started from seed, planted as containerized plants or propagated by division. Seed should be broadcast onto prepared soils in late fall, and then lightly raked or rolled to increase seed-to-soil contact. A scattering of prairie grass stems can help to stabilize soils and improve growing conditions. Weeds should be clipped during the first growing season to allow enough sunlight to reach the seedlings. Germination rates are often low, so containerized plants may be a better option when

more predictability is needed. In gardens, plants also can be divided in early spring or fall when they will be less stressed from warm temperatures. In general, plants should not be moved when they are flowering. But pasqueflowers can be divided when they start to bloom if the flower buds are cut off, which will decrease transplant stress and allow reflowering later in the season. Companion species include side-oats grama, little bluestem, Junegrass, prairie violet, dotted blazing star, prairie smoke and showy goldenrod.

Developed by Dan Shaw, BWSR senior ecologist and vegetation specialist

