

Narrow-leaved purple coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*)

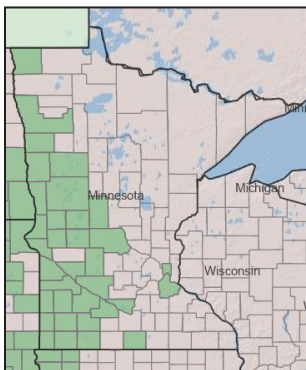
Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

DESCRIPTION: The only purple coneflower native to Minnesota, narrow-leaved purple coneflower grows in dry prairies, where its flowers appear from late June to late July. Sprouting from a single deep taproot, it tends to flower vigorously after fires.

USES: Long used for medicinal purposes and as a dietary supplement, the plant is also valued in dry prairie restorations, where it attracts dozens of species of native bees. It is the only host plant for an aphid (*Protaphis echinaceae*) known to live only in Minnesota.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[Echinacea Project](#)
[USDA](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA
Plants Database



Photo Credit: Grace Kellison, Echinacea Project

Planting Recommendations

Minnesota's native purple coneflower needs ample light and thrives in dry, poor or mesic soil. It is best to sow seeds on top of the soil in the fall, as they benefit from natural winter conditions to break dormancy and need light to germinate. If sowing in the spring, cold-moist stratify the seeds for two to three months first. Seedlings need light and grow slowly while taproots develop. Narrow-leaved purple coneflower

works well with other dry prairie natives like side-oats grama, little bluestem, silky aster and purple prairie clover. In native prairies, plants may take 10 years to flower. Giving plants direct light by mowing or burning in early spring speeds that process. Patience has its rewards: individual plants can live for decades. While they may not flower every year, they will produce leaves annually. To lessen the risk of disease, avoid overcrowding.

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**STATEWIDE
WETLAND
INDICATOR
STATUS:** None

ID: Plants produce narrow leaves that are hairy, feel rough and have three prominent veins. Established plants may produce one or more hairy stems up to 2 feet tall, each bearing a single flowerhead with pink ray petals surrounding a center of yellow pollen.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Eastern purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) has wider leaves that grow along the entire length of the stem. It flowers longer and later in the season. Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) is usually taller. It has white pollen and longer, narrower ray petals. Many cultivars and other non-native purple coneflowers are widely grown.