## **Purple Coneflower**

## Echinacea purpurea (L.) Moench.



The purple coneflower is a flower native to central North American prairie areas. It has beautiful purple, daisy-like flowers. There are also other color varieties, ranging from pink to white. It is well-known as a herbal medicine for boosting the immune system, and there is scientific evidence to support this. However, the studies also show that it is effective only if used on occasion; if used constantly, it loses its effectiveness.

The purple coneflower is extremely easy to grow, preferring warm, sunny locations, usually growing 18 to 36 inches tall. It blooms midsummer to late summer. It is quite drought-resistant once established. The species is hardy to zone 4.

## **Propagation:**

The seed needs no stratification. Just direct-sow it any time from fall to spring. Protect seed from birds.

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