

Eastern Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Aster Family

Other Common Names: echinacea, snakeroot, Kansas snakeroot, narrow-leaved purple coneflower, scurvy root, Indian head, comb flower, black susans, and hedge hog

Scientific Name: *Echinacea purpurea* (L) Moench

Plant Symbol: ECPU

Distinguishing characteristics: Flowering heads with reddish-purple to pink rays (2-3" long) which are generally reflexed slightly at flowering; central disk conical with reddish-orange, blunt tipped spines and a dark center; leaves largest basally and reduced in size up the stem and with coarsely saw-toothed margins. The only *Echinacea* in our range with leaves 3-5 in. wide and with rounded or heart-shaped leaf bases, and fibrous roots.

Plant Height: 2-4 ft., erect

Blooms/Fruits: May-October

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous (with fibrous roots)

Pollinator Value: Attracts butterflies and native bees.

Habitat: rocky prairies, open wooded, thickets, often near waterways

Note: Eastern purple coneflower is a common horticultural plant with several cultivars, which do escape into natural environments. These cultivars will appear somewhat different in size and flower color compared to native individuals.

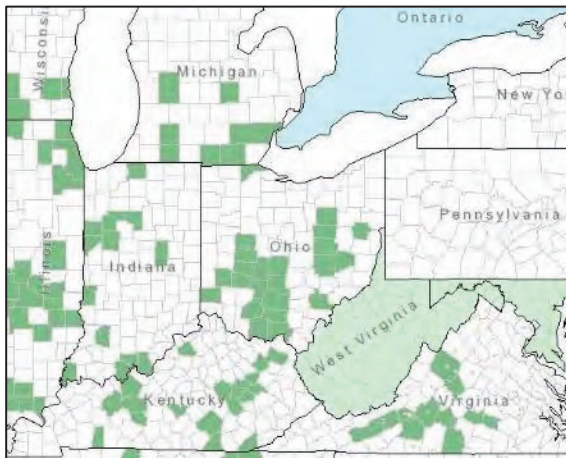
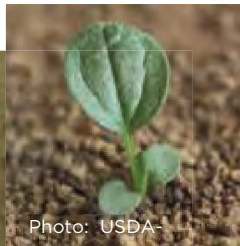


Photo: Alan Cressler, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Seedling

Full flowering/close-up of flower and mature seedhead



Stem and leaf



Seed