



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
**OFFICIAL FLOWER**  
LEXINGTON - FAYETTE COUNTY

The Purple Coneflower: *Echinacea Purpurea*, is a native perennial Kentucky native, in the Daisy family (Asteraceae). Their genus name *Echinacea* comes from the Latin name for hedgehog, *echinus*, referring to the often prickly lower stem of the plant. The native plant is only purple, hence the name *Purpurea*, but recent cultivars have made it available in a large variety of colors. Coneflowers get their common name from the coned center of the bloom where the seeds develop. Coneflowers are at home in a traditional garden or a wildflower meadow; they are striking in masses, especially as a mix of various colors.

They are Sun-loving and drought tolerant, upright plants are ideal for single plantings or show-stopping mass groupings in zones 3-8. They tolerate clay and shallow-rocky soil. These showy, daisy-like flowers bloom from midsummer through fall frost and grow 2 to 4 feet in height with dark green foliage and a spread of 2 feet. They are fast growers and self-sow their seed profusely!

The dead or spent flower stems will remain erect well into the winter; and if flower heads are not removed, the blackened cones may be visited by goldfinches or other birds that feed on the seeds. They attract birds, moths, butterflies and bees, but repel deer.

Native to North America, *Echinacea* was discovered and used as an herbal remedy for more than 400 years by the Great Plains Indian tribes. Technically classified as herbaceous, several species are used to make medicine from the flowers, leaves and roots. *Echinacea* is widely considered to prevent or soothe colds and flu.

### ***Vocabulary***

Herbaceous  
Herbal  
Erect  
Repel

Profusely  
Perennial  
Asteraceae  
Hedgehog

Cultivars  
Drought  
Tolerant

### ***Exploration***

What's the opposite of an upright plant?

Research list of Native American Plain Indian tribes

What's the difference between Perennial and Annual?

What do planting zone numbers mean?

What planting zone is Kentucky in?

Why do plants have a Latin name?

What's the difference between *attract* and *repel*?

Why might you want to plant them?

Where might you plant them?

What are the parts of a flower and functions of each

