

# prairie avens

## *Geum triflorum*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Rosales  
Family: Rosaceae

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### FEATURES

Prairie avens is also known as purple smoke, prairie-smoke or old man's whiskers. This perennial herb has both stem leaves and basal leaves. The stem leaves are arranged alternately. The lower leaves are divided into thin, paired, uneven sections. The nodding, globe-shaped, purple or red-purple flowers have five petals. Flowers are borne in groups of three. The "smoke" and "whiskers" common names refer to the long, feathery, hairlike structures on the fruiting head. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Prairie avens may attain a height of six to 16 inches.

### BEHAVIORS

Prairie avens may be found in the northern one-fourth of Illinois. It grows in dry or moist prairies. Flowers are produced from May through June. Wind is the pollinating agent.



plant with flowers

### ILLINOIS RANGE



fruiting head



**Aquatic Habitats**

none

**Woodland Habitats**

none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; hill prairie