

# purple coneflower

## *Echinacea purpurea*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Asterales  
Family: Asteraceae

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### FEATURES

Purple coneflower is also known as broad-leaved purple coneflower. This perennial herb has a woody taproot. One to several stems are present. Stems are mostly unbranched, rough and hairy. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf is toothed, rough and lance-shaped. The lower leaves are on long stalks. The large flower heads contain both disk (fertile) and ray (usually sterile) flowers. The pink to red-purple rays point toward the ground. The fruits are hard, dry and four-angled. Purple coneflower may attain a height of two to three feet.

### BEHAVIORS

Purple coneflower may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in open woods and dry to moist prairies. Flowers are produced from July through August.

flower head



### ILLINOIS RANGE



leaves and stem



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flower heads



seed head



**Aquatic Habitats**

none

**Woodland Habitats**

upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; gravel prairie; hill prairie