

# Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea*

## At a Glance

- Height: 2 to 4 feet tall
- Bloom Colors: Soft lavender-purple petals with orange centers
- Bloom Time: Mid to late summer
- Days to Maturity: Perennial, blooms in second year
- Best For: Pollinator gardens, medicinal use, cut flowers

## Growing Conditions Quick Reference

- Soil Temperature: 65-75F for best germination
- Soil Type: Well-drained, sandy or loamy soil
- Light Requirements: Full sun to partial shade
- Planting Depth: Surface sow or lightly cover
- Seeding Rate: Thin to 18-24 inches apart
- Moisture Needs: Moderate; drought tolerant once established
- Average Germination Time: 10-20 days (may benefit from cold stratification)

## How to Grow

- When to Plant: Sow outdoors in fall or cold-stratify seeds for spring planting.
- Location: Full sun preferred, tolerates some shade.
- Spacing: Thin seedlings to 18-24 inches apart.
- Watering: Moderate; drought tolerant after first year.
- Fertilizer: Minimal needs; thrives in average soil.

## Tips for Success

- Cold stratification improves germination.
- Leave seed heads standing in fall for birds and winter interest.
- Divide clumps every 3-4 years to maintain vigor.
- Excellent for native and pollinator-friendly gardens.

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## Fun Fact

Purple coneflower (Echinacea) has been used traditionally to support the immune system and attract beneficial insects.

## Companion Planting

Pairs beautifully with black-eyed Susans, bee balm, and ornamental grasses for a prairie-style garden.

## Harvesting and Use

Cut flowers for arrangements or leave to dry for seed collection. Roots and petals can be used for herbal remedies.

## Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow in fall or cold-stratify for spring
- Thin seedlings to 18-24 inches apart
- Provide full sun and moderate water
- Leave seed heads for birds and reseeding