



# Grand Erie Master Gardeners



Brant

Haldimand

Norfolk



## Grey-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)

*Ratibida pinnata*, also called Gray-headed Mexican Hat, Pinnate Prairie Coneflower and Yellow Coneflower is a tall resilient wildflower on a slender stem with 1-12 flowers of drooping, bright yellow petals that are 2-3" across surrounding a greyish cone. *Ratibida pinnata* occurs in central and eastern North America ranging from Ontario and Vermont south to northern Florida and west to South Dakota, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Its native Ontario habitat is in dry woods and prairies.



Photo Credit: Kevin Kavanagh



### Plant Type:

Clump forming perennial.



### Light Conditions:

Performs best in full sun. Adaptable to light shade.



### Soil and Moisture:

Dry to average moisture; drought tolerant, grows in sand, loam, clay.



### Size/Height:

Flower stems rise to 0.9-1.5m (3-5ft), spread is 30-60cm (1-2ft). Flower stems may require support.



### Flowers/Fruit:

Bright yellow and long-lasting flowers from June to August with a conical center which matures to attractive seed heads in fall. Attracts many beneficial insects and the seeds on the cones are a great food source for songbirds in the fall.



### Wildlife Benefits:

Attracts many beneficial insects such as wasps, beetles and flies including pollen specialist bees *Andrena rudbeckiae*, *Melissodes boltoniae*, *Melissodes trinodis*. Larval host for silvery checkerspot butterfly, common eupithecia and camouflaged looper moths.