

## Purple Coneflower: *Echinacea purpurea*

Also known as the Eastern Purple Coneflower, this variety is a showy, easily grown perennial with 2-5 feet stems and long-lasting lavender flowers, attractive to both butterflies and hummingbirds. Goldfinches enjoy its seeds in the fall. The rough leaves of the plant become smaller toward the top of its smooth stem.



Often seen in landscapes, it may become aggressive. The purple coneflower mainly blooms in June and July in Kansas and is quite drought resistant. In the landscape, it can be used in pots, flower beds and borders. Its flowers are often used to make an herbal tea which is thought to strengthen the immune system.

## Echinacea

Echinacea endemic (native) to North America tallgrass and midgrass prairies. It belongs to the aster family although related species have been placed in the genera Rudbeckia and Brauneria. The species have erect stems with alternating leaves which are sometimes hairy and sometimes toothed. Its flower is a spiky cone head surrounded by ray flowers. Each flower head has a group of three to four whorls of bracts (small, leaf like) structure often positioned beneath a flower that angle out from a central point. The word Echinacea is rooted in Greek which means hedgehog, referring to the spiky appearance of the cone. It is a Native American medicinal plant which has been harvested commercially for over 100 years. The Cedar Crest Native Plant Garden includes *Ratibida pinnata* (Grayhead coneflower), *Ratibida columnifera* (Yellow prairie coneflower), along with the other coneflowers featured in this brochure.



## Topeka Purple Coneflower: *Echinacea atrorubens*



This is a 1-3 feet tall summer perennial with a very narrow distribution in the Kansas Flint Hills, east Texas and Oklahoma. It blooms from April through June. It has a special value to native bees, attracting a large number of them.



Distribution Topeka Purple Coneflower

## **Liatris**

This member of the aster family has over 40 different species and is native to the central and central US. Its flowering pattern is unique, blooming from the top down. Blooms are usually purple but may be white. Butterflies are attracted to the flowers, and birds enjoy its seeds in the fall. Quite resilient, it can endure poor soil, heat, cold, and drought. Cedar Crest Native Plant garden has two species of liatris, *Liatris pycnostachya* and *Liatris aspera* (button blazing star).

### **Kansas Gayfeather or Prairie Blazing Star: *Liatris pycnostachya***



This is a hardy, native herb which is very visible on the prairie due to its height; it may grow as tall as 5 feet. Both stem and leaves have short, stiff hairs. Base leaves may be as long as 4 inches and ½ inch wide, but leaves decrease in size as they ascend the stem into the purple, thistle-like flowers seen late summer to fall.

## **Monarda Fistulosa: Beebalm**

Flowering in June, July, and August with clusters of lavender, pink or white pompom-shaped flowers, bee balm presents a nice show. It reaches heights of 2-5 feet and 2 feet wide. On a practical side, its oils were once used to treat respiratory ailments. As a member of the mint family, it may be used to flavor tea.



Sources  
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## **Cedar Crest Native Plant Garden Summer Blooming Plants**



Button Blazing Star



Grey-headed Prairie Coneflower



Yellow Prairie Coneflower