

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF WESTERN MISSOURI GERMPLASM
PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture announce the release of a source identified ecotype of pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*, Nutt.) for Western Missouri counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower to document its original collections. Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9079033.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of pale purple coneflower collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

Collection Site Information: Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the counties of western Missouri, primarily from the Osage plains. There were a total of 17 collections from seven different counties.

Ecotype Description: Pale purple coneflower is a perennial native prairie wildflower which grows 2 to 3 feet tall. The leaves are mostly basal; elongate-oval, blades 7 inches long by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch with leaf stalks from 6 inches for basal leaves to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch for stem leaves; parallel veins in the blades; bulb-based hairs above and below. There is a single head at the top of a stalk having stiff hairs and a few small leaves. The heads are pale to deep rose-purple, drooping rays, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, dark purple disk flowers on a conical base, the disk about 1 inch tall and 1 inch in diameter; flowering from May to July; rays often last until August. The fruits (seeds) are $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, squarish and pointed at one end; no plume; fruiting begins in late June; often fruits persist in the head through the winter.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower did not meet the assessment of a plant which could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower include roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities. Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower can be used as a beneficial component in pollinator plantings.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Pale purple coneflower occurs throughout the tallgrass prairie biome, and common on limestone glades, barrens, bald knobs, fields, along railroads, and

prairies, rarely in dry rocky woods. The range is from Illinois and Michigan to Minnesota and Nebraska, south to Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas.

Availability of Plant Materials: G1 material of Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012).

References:

Flora of Missouri; pp. 1560-1562; Steyemark, J. A; Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA 1968.

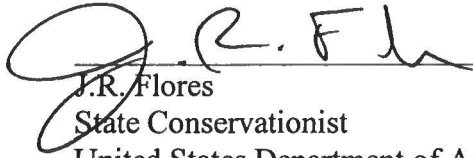
An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants; p. 43, Christiansen, P. and Muller, M.; University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA 1999.

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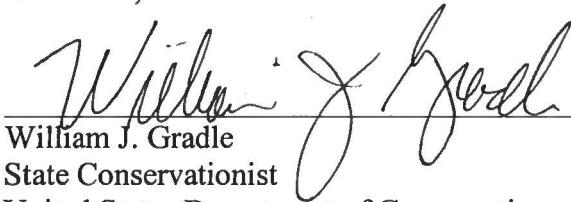
Signatures for release of:

Western Missouri Germplasm pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida* Nutt.)



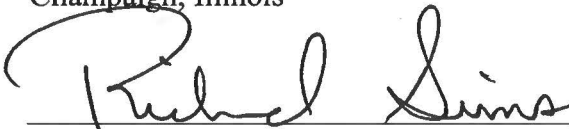
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9-14-09
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 National Program Leader - Plant Materials
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Director

Ecological Sciences Division
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Washington, D.C.

9-30-09
Date