

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

And

THE IOWA ECOTYPE PROJECT AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE CENTER  
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF CENTRAL IOWA GERMPLASM  
PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER  
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Ecotype Project at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), the Tallgrass Prairie Center, (TPC), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*, Nutt.) for Central Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Central Iowa Germplasm pale purple coneflower to document its original collections. Central Iowa Germplasm pale purple coneflower released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9068612.

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 three tiers of counties located in central Iowa.

**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 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:** Central Iowa Germplasm pale purple coneflower is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Central Iowa 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 Central Iowa Germplasm pale purple coneflower include roadside and wildlife plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

**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 is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa, Tallgrass Prairie Center. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or the University of Northern Iowa, Tallgrass Prairie Center, 2414 W. 27<sup>th</sup> St., Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293 (319 273-3005).

**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:**

**Central Iowa Germplasm pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida Nutt.*)**

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