

PURPLE CONEFLOWER – ‘Kim’s Knee High’

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Image source: http://www.wildflower.org/image_archive

Features: ‘Kim’s Knee-High’ is a dwarf cultivar of this common garden favorite, purple coneflower³. It is beneficial and highly attractive to birds, bees and butterflies^{2,12}.

Flowering begins in mid-summer and continues sporadically until frost^{3,4}.

Siting: *Echinacea purpurea* ‘Kim’s Knee-High’ performs best in consistently moist, well-drained soil and full sun conditions⁴. Tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions^{10,12}.

Care: Plant crown at soil level¹⁸. At planting, water the roots and surrounding area slowly and deeply. Keep soil moist until plant is established, then apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone when the soil is dry or during drought. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3” of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the plant

stems¹⁸. It can be divided every 3 to 4 years to prevent overcrowding⁴.

Pests: *Echinacea* are prone to several disease and insect pest problems such as stem rots, powdery mildew, anthracnose, and aster yellows. In addition, there may be damage from aphids, Japanese beetles, and mites; however, the resulting symptoms are usually minimal. Proper plant spacing, well-drained soils and proper sanitation by removing plant debris will help reduce disease problems⁴.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (2/27/13):

X USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>

X SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>

Latin name: <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> ‘Kim’s Knee High’	Texture: Coarse ⁴
Common name: Purple Coneflower ‘Kim’s Knee High’	Growth rate: Medium ⁴
Flowers: Purple-pinkish petals surround a raised brown/bronze-colored center disk ^{2,12}	Light: Full sun to part shade ¹²
Fruit: Inconspicuous ³	Moisture: Dry to medium ¹⁰
Height & Width: 2’ x 2’ ³	Soil*: Tolerates a wide variety of soils ^{10,12}
Type: Herbaceous perennial ^{4,10}	Zones: 3 - 8 ²
Habit: Upright ^{3,12}	Origin: Midwestern to Eastern United States, including South Carolina ¹⁶
Wetland indicator category**: Not available ¹⁷	Benefits: Beneficial and highly attractive to birds, bees and butterflies ^{2,12}