

Cutleaf Coneflower

Rudbeckia laciniata

(rud-BEK-ee-a la-sin-ee-AY-tuh)



Left: Late August, in bloom, and providing nectar.

Below: The distinctive, divided leaf.

Photo by and grown by John Brandauer



Description: The name refers to the divided leaf, unlike any other *Rudbeckia*. This is the second tallest flower we grow here, only the [Wingstem](#) is taller. Audubon recommended as a "[Plant for a Rain garden](#)". The young leaves are edible, eaten raw, as a salad green.

Other Names: Cut-leaf coneflower, Green-head coneflower, Tall Coneflower or, Thimbleweed

Type: Forb/herb

Family: Asteraceae

Life Cycle: Perennial

Native Status: Native to ALL of the USA, except CA, OR and NV.

Light Requirements: Full sun, part sun.

Soil Preference: Prefers rich, moist loamy, mildly acidic, also grows in normal, clay or sandy soil.

Care: Easy. May need staking, especially in wet years, or in very rich soil.

Growth Rate: **MAY BE AGGRESSIVE, in growth.** Moderate for us, perhaps more spreading with more moisture, or richer soil. Consider a rhizome barrier, for formal gardens. After four years, we are reducing the colony size.

Blooms: Yellow, drooping petals, 2.5 to 4" across, in late summer to early fall.

Size: Three to twelve feet tall, about a foot and a half, to two feet wide wide. OH BABY!

Natural habitat: Open moist, swampy areas.

Wildlife Benefits: A nectar source for bees and butterflies. A potential host for the Silvery Checkerspot. Several birds consume seeds: Titmouse, Goldfinch and Sparrow.

Propagation Methods: Best by root ball division.

Commercial availability: Available mail order, seed or plant. Rare Find Nursery in Jackson has a cultivar available.

Information compiled from the web, supplemented by our experiences.

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