

NATIVE PERENNIALS

Coneflower, Yellow

Echinacea paradoxa

Native in US. Large yellow flowers appear in early to mid-summer. Petals droop down from central seedhead. Flowers similar to other Echinacea but with yellow petals. Grows to 2-4 feet.

Description: Yellow coneflower is an herbaceous perennial which produces attractive large daisy-like flowers with drooping yellow to orange-yellow petals during July-September. Plants grow 2-4 ft. tall and spread 1-2 ft. Flowers are produced on rigid, glabrous stems. Smooth dark green leaves are lance-shaped and 4-8" long with linear veining. Yellow coneflower is a tap-rooted plant which requires several growing seasons to reach full size, so be patient! Attracts bees and butterflies and is deer resistant.

Distribution/Habitat: Native in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas but appears to be hardy in South Dakota and other northern states.

Comments: Yellow coneflower is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun. No serious insect or disease problems are common. Dead-heading improves appearance in the garden and landscape. Seedheads are a good winter food source for birds, especially goldfinches, if left in place. May self-seed if at least some of the seed heads are left over winter. Yellow coneflower is the only Echinacea to have yellow flowers instead of the usual purple flowers, this being the paradox suggested by the species name! Yellow coneflower is a somewhat lanky grower so plant them in groups of 3 or more for best effect in the garden or landscape. Contrasts nicely with the related purple coneflowers.

Credit: Missouri Botanical Garden

Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery & Thomas G Barnes, USDA-NRCS Plants Database



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