



Tennessee coneflower



Plant Botanical Name:

Echinacea tenesseensis

Echinacea tenesseensis, or Tennessee coneflower, is known to exist naturally only in three locations around Nashville. Smaller and less vigorous than the common coneflower, Tennessee coneflower has short, more upturned ray flowers; spiny, coppery center disks with a green tinge and a vertical rootstock. It performs well in partial shade, particularly under cedar trees and where bedrock is near the surface. This coneflower has historically been rare with its habitat restricted to open sites with low competition. With human settlement, forest "openings" were more common, likely maintained by fire and large grazing mammals. Neither form of disturbance are a significant factor in its survival, therefore, acceptable habitat is greatly diminished.

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