

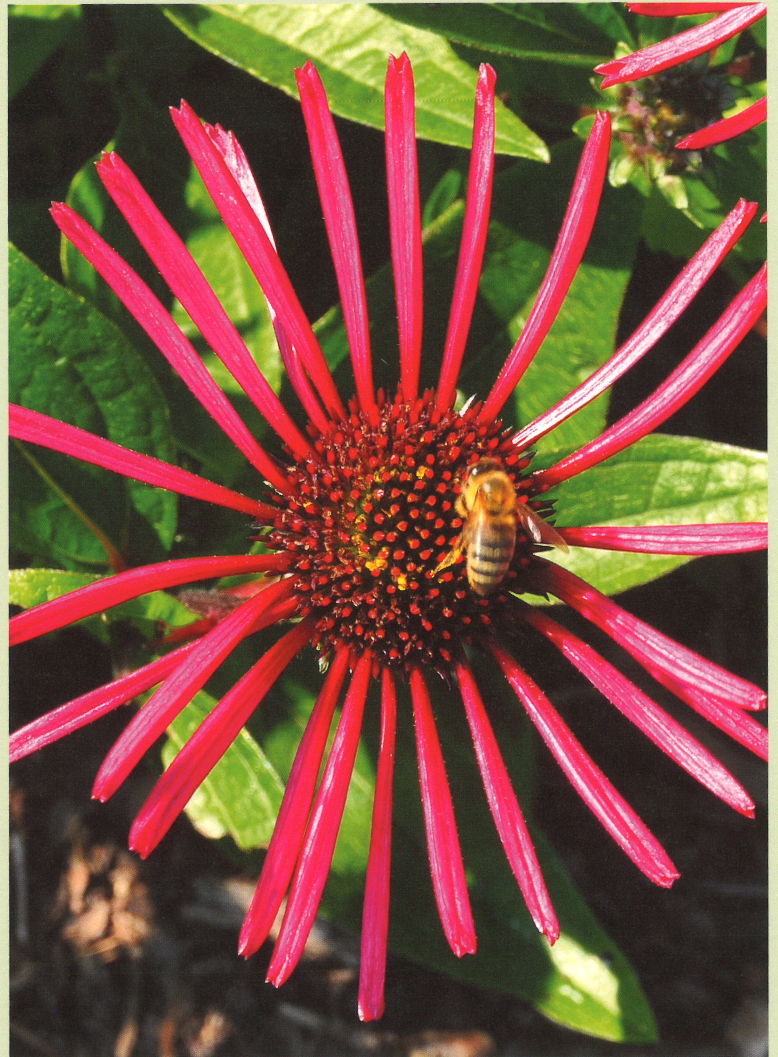
Chicagoland Grows[®], Inc.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #32

Burgundy Fireworks Coneflower **A Meadowbrite™ Introduction**

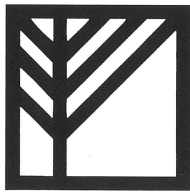
Echinacea 'Burgundy Fireworks' PPAF

This compact and unique selection of coneflower is long blooming, produces vivid beet-red ray flowers that are uniformly fused into quills, and has deep burgundy stems and dark green, glossy leaves. No other coneflower has this combination of traits!



Chicagoland Grows[®] is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).

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Burgundy Fireworks Coneflower

A Meadowbrite™ Introduction

Echinacea 'Burgundy Fireworks' PPAF



Botanical Name

Echinacea 'Burgundy Fireworks' PPAF

Common Name

Burgundy Fireworks Coneflower

Family

Asteraceae

Origin

This unique coneflower is the culmination of five generations of breeding over ten years and combines three different coneflower species: *Echinacea laevigata*, *E. purpurea*, and *E. tenesseeensis*. Selected in 2006 from a cross made in 2005, it was stable under four years of field evaluation and through three cycles of tissue culture propagation. Developed by Dr. Jim Ault at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois.

Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-7.

Bloom Season

This selection starts blooming in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5) in mid-June to early July, with a heavy flush of flowers for all of August, and then a continuation of at least a few flower heads well into October.

Plant Habit

An herbaceous perennial that has a bushy, upright habit, slowly adding more stems and becoming more broad than tall over time. The stems are quite sturdy and remain compact, even on container-grown plants.

Size

Plants grow no taller than 18 inches, and grow as wide or slightly wider, making this one of the more compact coneflowers in the marketplace.

Growth Rate

Typical for a coneflower.

Ornamental Characteristics

The flowering stems are a deep burgundy color in spring and fall, which is still evident in the heat of summer. The smallish, glossy leaves are an attractive deep green, with red midveins in colder weather. But most unique about this selection are the vivid beet-red ray flowers, which are not only upturned like its *E. tenesseeensis* ancestor but are individually fused into quills. It's long blooming as well.

Culture

Full sun and a well-drained, medium-moist soil are recommended. Adaptable to varied soil type and pH, and nutrient availability. Not recommended for wet, poorly drained soils. Seed heads can be removed to encourage further blooming. Once freezing weather has killed the stems in late autumn, plants can be cut down to above any green basal leaves that remain.

Pest and Disease Problems

This selection appears to have few disease and insect problems. While coneflowers as a group tend to be fairly disease free and insect resistant, plants should be watched for aster yellows symptoms in areas of high leafhopper infestations.

Landscape Value

This unique and long-blooming, compact perennial is perfect for containers, perennial borders, and small urban gardens. Interplant it with other sun-loving perennials for a long and carefree bloom display. Excellent for mass planting, or as specimens in the perennial border.

Propagation

Typically propagated by tissue culture. Division or root cuttings are possible. Plants propagated from seed will not be true to type due to the complex multispecies ancestry of this selection.

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The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.



For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact the Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, (847) 835-8301 or visit www.chicagolandgrows.org.