

	<b>Scientific name:</b> <i>Dalea purpurea</i>
	<b>Common name(s):</b> Purple Prairie Clover
	<b>Family:</b> Fabaceae (Pea)
	<b>Native:</b> CO, Continental Divide, Great Plains, Midwest, Deep South, Great Lakes
	<b>Habitat:</b> Prairie, plains, foothills, rocky slopes, open woods
<p>As a member of the Pea Family, Purple Prairie Clover fixes nitrogen from the air into the soil, improving soil fertility for surrounding plant communities. It's deep taproot and delicate foliage makes it resilient against heat, drought, wind and hail. It's bright color and long bloom pairs beautifully with yellow-flowering natives, especially Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>). This extremely low-maintenance plant is a favorite of native pollinators, but also of rabbits. Cage newly planted plants with chicken wire if you have heavy rabbit pressure.</p>	
<p><b>Plant type:</b> Perennial</p> <p><b>Elevation:</b> to 7700'</p> <p><b>USDA Hardiness Zone:</b> 3</p> <p><b>Exposure:</b> Full sun</p> <p><b>Soil:</b> Clay, sandy, rocky; infertile (prefers well-drained soil)</p> <p><b>Moisture:</b> Moderate, low, dry</p> <p><b>Flower color:</b> Magenta-purple</p> <p><b>Bloom time:</b> Mid to late summer</p> <p><b>Mature size (height x width):</b> 12-30" x 1-2'</p>	
	<p><b>Propagation:</b> Store seeds dry at 40° F. Seeds require scarification and inoculant (optional, but effective), but no cold stratification to germinate. After the last frost in the spring, sandpaper the seeds. Next put them in a pyrex bowl and cover with boiling water. Cool and soak for 24 hours. Drain seeds and roll in a light dust of inoculant. Sow in cells or pots. Cover with 1/8" of medium. Expose to 70° F. Scarified seeds can be sown in situ outside in early spring; press into soil surface or cover lightly with soil.</p>
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