

## Echinacea pallida 'Hula Dancer' Hula Dancer Pale Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea pallida* 'Hula Dancer' (Hula Dancer Pale Purple Coneflower) is a 4-season perennial with drooping slender, light-pink petals that circle a robust yellowish-red central cone, resembling the draped, swaying skirt of a hula dancer. At 2-3' tall, the flowers sit atop unbranched stiff grayish or reddish green stems. Most of the narrow, lanceolate leaves are basal, with parallel veins and an olive green color. Unlike other *Echinacea*, this species has long (up to 9"), narrow leaves that are un-toothed, altogether making this a more slender perennial in every aspect. Stems and leaves are slightly hairy, adding a soft texture to the garden. This hardy prairie flower is adapted for full sun, and can tolerate part shade, heat, drought, and poor infertile soils of clay or gravel. It does best in dry to medium, fertile soils. It's recommended to leave the attractive dark gray seed heads, as they provide architectural interest in the winter, as well as a food source for finches and other birds. This plant is resistant to many herbivores, including deer, and is well-adapted to exist within a prescribed burn regime in a prairie-inspired landscape.

**Botanical Name:** *Echinacea pallida* 'Hula Dancer'

**Common Name:** Hula Dancer Pale Purple Coneflower

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Nativity:** Great Lakes Native

**USDA Zone:** 3 to 8

**Light Type:** Full Sun to Part Shade

**Soil Type:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Preferences:** Fertile, well-drained soils

**Soil Moisture:** DM

**Typical height (ft):** 2-3'

**Typical width (ft):** 1-1.5'

**Foliage:** The leaf surface is a dull olive green. Leaves and stems are usually covered with fine white hairs.

**Bloom Time:** June, July

**Bloom:** White tinged with pale pink

**Ecological features:** provides pollen and nectar to a wide variety of long- and short-tongued bees, butterflies, and other pollinators; seeds are relished by goldfinches and other songbirds

**Tolerance of:** heat, drought, and poor infertile soils of clay or gravel

**Additional notes:** 4-season interest plant with charcoal, geometric seed heads in winter.

**Companion plants:** Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Bee-Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Golden Alexander (*Zizia aptera*)

**For more information see:**

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Echinacea-pallida-Hula-Dancer>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=273239>

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/perennial-plants/echinacea/echinacea-pallida-hula-dancer>

<https://www.hardyplants.com/seeds/EPHD-A9.html>

**Images of *Echinacea pallida* 'Hula Dancer'**



Echinacea-pallida-Hula-Dancer-1.jpg  
Flowers, close-up



Echinacea-Hula-Dancer-1.jpg

Variable morphology, with flatter green central cone.



Echinacea-pallida-Hula-Dancer-3.jpg

Double layers of petals, variation in pink/purple/white hues



Jl\_260716\_MatthewReese\_064-copy-2fe9e7b.jpg

Stiff erect stems, with draping skirt-like petals.



12561\_richard\_bloom-web-large.jpg

Plant in context



1376866.jpg

Charcoal winter interest

**Image choices for narrative:**

Choice 1:

Jl\_260716\_MatthewReese\_064-copy-2fe9e7b.jpg

Stiff erect stems, with draping skirt-like petals.

Choice 2:

12561\_richard\_bloom-web-large.jpg

Plants in context