

Geum triflorum Prairie Smoke

Geum triflorum (Prairie Smoke) is a small clumping perennial that offers pink to magenta bell-shaped flowers in late spring and dramatic pink-grey feathery seed heads in summer that give the illusion of smoke. Nodding pink to maroon flowers arrive in mid-spring for an extended bloom period of 1-2 months. Dramatic feathery pink-grey seed heads continue into summer, creating the effect of a smoky haze. Seed heads dry to a golden color. The basal clump of fern-like, blue-green foliage turns burgundy in late fall, often lasting through the winter. Serves as a resource for bumblebees, its key pollinator. Best when grown in sunny well-drained soils. Prairie Smoke is resistant to deer and drought.

Botanical Name: Geum triflorum

Common Name: Prairie Smoke

Family: Rosacea

Nativity: Great Lakes region, northern North America

USDA Zone: 3 to 7

Light Type: Full Sun to Light Shade

Soil Type: shallow, gravelly soils to silty and loamy soils but tolerates all soil types if organically rich and well-drained.

Soil Preferences: Prefers afternoon shade in hot summers; tolerates light shade

Soil Moisture: Prefers dry. Can grow with medium moisture in well-drained soils; wet winter soil conditions cause die off.

Typical height (ft): 0.5-1.5' (flowers rise 12-18" above 8" high basal leaves)

Typical width (ft): 0.5-1'

Foliage: Basal leaves are blue-green and fern-like. Fall color is burgundy.

Bloom Time: April, May, June

Bloom: pink to maroon

Ecological features: Bumblebees - key pollinator; resource for bees and butterflies; rarely browsed by mammalian herbivores

Tolerance of: Deer, drought, dry soil

Additional notes: Spreads by rhizomes and self-seeds. Competition from taller and more aggressive plants is not tolerated.

Companion plants: Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), Poverty Oat Grass (*Danthonia spicata*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Downy Wood Mint (*Blephilia ciliata*), Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)

For more information see:

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/prairie-smoke-geum-triflorum/>

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Geum-triflorum>

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=GETR>

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/prairie_smoke.html

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/prairie-smoke>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/prairie-smoke/prairie-smoke-wildflower.htm>

Images of Geum triflorum



Geum_triflorum_(3646164197).jpg

swath of seed heads



Geum_triflorum_(3646972692).jpg
transition - petals to seed head



Geum_triflorum_(7349529382).jpg
morning dew on feathery seed head



Geum_triflorum_(9073116002).jpg
variation in flowering time



Geum_triflorum_5721.JPG
plant form - basal rosette & flowers



Geum_triflorum_kz1.jpg
basal leaves in spring

Image choices for narrative:

Geum_triflorum_5721.JPG plant form - basal rosette & flowers

Geum_triflorum_(3646972692).jpg transition - petals to seed head