



Head of Pale Coneflower.

PALE CONEFLOWER

Echinacea pallida Nutt.

The coneflowers are perennial herbs of North America, mostly found in prairies and barrens. All are rather stout with scattered leaves and stems terminating in a single large head. The genus name is from *echinos* (meaning sea-urchin), in reference to the sharp-pointed scales in the fruiting heads. In the Pale Coneflower, plants are about two feet tall and usually hairy. Leaf blades are ovate to lanceolate, on long petioles, and toothed. The disk flowers form a cone with brownish-purple flowers. Ray flowers are drooping, dull purple or occasionally whitish, and about two inches long. Flowering is June-August. This is a rare species for us and we know of specimens only from barren-like areas and roadsides on Silver Trail. Let us know if you find others (Asteraceae, the Aster Family).



Stand of Pale Coneflower on Silver Trail just west of Woodlands Nature Center, Lyon County, Kentucky (LBL).