



## ***Dalea purpureum* – Purple Prairie Clover**

COMMON NAME: Purple Prairie Clover

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dalea purpureum* (also *Petalostemum ppurpureum*) Samuel Dale (1659-1739) was an English physician, botanist and author of botanical works and books on medicinal plants. *Purpurea* from the Greek for “purple.”

FLOWER COLOR: Magenta

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to early August

SIZE: 12 to 30 inches tall.

BEHAVIOR: Best planted in masses for a showy display. Deep tough roots make it very drought tolerant. Spreads by seed. Older plants have many flowering stems.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Needs moderately dry to dry soil, sand or gravel. Requires full sun.

RANGE: An east-west band from Indiana to Montana and north-south from Saskatchewan to western Tennessee, Texas and New Mexico. It is found in most of western and southern Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This is a legume and the roots have the ability to obtain nitrogen from the air, thus fertilizing themselves and indirectly other members of the prairie community. It attracts many kinds of insects. The plant is palatable and high in protein so mammalian herbivores (rabbits!) of all kinds browse it readily.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well during the first season. Try to protect it from rabbits and deer until well established.

COMPANION PLANTS: Leadplant, little bluestem, thimbleweed, whorled milkweed, sideoats grama, bastard toadflax, flowering spurge, alumroot, round-head bushclover, rough blazingstar, hoary and fringed puccoon, prairie dock, prairie dropseed, needle grass, pasque flower, silky aster, prairie smoke and pale purple coneflower.