

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Dalea candida* – White Prairie Clover**

COMMON NAME: White prairie clover

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dalea candida* (also *Petalostemum candidum*) - Samuel Dale (1659-1739) was an English physician, botanist and author of botanical works and books on medicinal plants. *Candida* means white.

FLOWER: White, attractive flowerheads rise above the surrounding grasses.

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: Dry, open woods and dry prairies in full sun.

NATURAL 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, but is less common than purple prairie clover.

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. The taproot can be pulverized and used for a fine tasting tea.

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

COMPANION PLANTS: Leadplant, butterfly weed, sideoats grama, round-head bushclover, rough blazingstar, prairie dock, prairie dropseed, and pale purple coneflower.