



***Ratibida pinnata* – Yellow Coneflower**

COMMON NAME: Yellow coneflower, prairie coneflower, gray-headed coneflower

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ratibida pinnata* – First named by Constantine Rafinesque-Schmaltz (1783-1840), an eccentric botanist who traveled extensively in areas east of the Mississippi River. *Pinnata* is Latin for “feather-like” and refers to the leaves.

FLOWER: Yellow with drooping rays 1 to 2 inches long. It has a gray cone that darkens with maturity.

BLOOMING PERIOD: June to September.

SIZE: 3 to 5 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Perennial, forming clumps of 20 or more beautiful flowering stalks. Tends to become tall where there is a lack of competition. Reseeds readily, blooming the second year. Division is difficult because of its extensive root system.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: It has a wide tolerance of soils and light conditions, but does best in full sun and average soil. It does tolerate poor, sandy soil, drought and light shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Ontario and western New York south to Louisiana and Florida, west to Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma. It is very common in southern and southwestern Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Attracts many insects, especially butterflies. The seeds are attractive to birds, especially winter finches. The beautiful flowers last a long time and hold up well in bouquets.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little care once established. It may require staking in new plantings.

COMPANION PLANTS: Stiff goldenrod, coreopsis, rattlesnake master, flowering spurge, bush clover, yarrow, bergamot, black-eyed Susan, spiderwort, big bluestem, lead plant and purple coneflower.