



***Anemone Patens*-- Pasque Flower**

COMMON NAME: Early Pasque Flower, Prairie Crocus, Cutleaf Anemone. Also known as *Pulsatilla patens*.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Anemone* is derived from the Latin *anemoi* which means wind, referring to the way the flower sways in the wind. *Patens* comes from the Latin *patere* which means *to be open* or *a shallow metal plate*. *Pasque* comes from old French referring to the spring bloom time.

FLOWER: The dark lavender to white pasque flower blooms on several 6 inch stems and each flower has 5-8 petal-like sepals. The center of the flower has yellow stamens. The stem and leaves are covered with silky hairs that help insulate it. It is one of the earliest flowers to bloom in Wisconsin.

BLOOMING PERIOD: March, April and May.

SIZE: Range is 3-18 inches.

BEHAVIOR: The seeds of the Pasque Flower bury themselves in the soil: the seeds have long tails covered with hair. These hairs absorb water and dry out at different rates, so every time they get wet, they twist and wiggle down to the soil as they dry. Individual plants can live up to 50 years. The cup shape and shiny inner petals use solar energy to create a warm space within the flower. This warm space protects the flower and the early spring insects that pollinate it.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Prefers fertile, medium moisture, well drained soils in full sun to light shade. Good soil drainage is essential. Tolerates drier conditions in cool environments.

NATURAL RANGE: In Wisconsin it occurs in all counties along the western and southern borders of the state, the southern third of the state as well as in Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Adams, Waushara and Fond du Lac counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Rabbit tolerant. It has a medicinal use in the treatment of cataracts. These flowers bloom near Easter time, and settlers once used their petals to color Easter eggs.

SUGGESTED CARE: It is low maintenance. Plant seeds in the fall. Divide or take root cuttings in the early spring or fall.

NOTE: There are several varieties of genus *Pulsatilla* worldwide. *Pulsatilla hirsutissima* is the South Dakota state flower. *Pulsatilla vulgaris* is native to Europe, and is synonymous with *Anemone pulsatilla*.