

## Echinacea purpurea 'Ruby Star'



### Plant Information

**Size:** 24"-36"  
Tall

**Flower Color:** Ruby red  
to pink

**Bloom Time:** Summer  
until the  
first  
frosts.

**Light Exposure:** Full sun  
to light  
shade.

**Soil Requirements:** Well  
drained  
with a pH  
5.5-6.0.

**Zones:** 3-8

**Notes:** The Echinacea plant was used in traditional medicine by the American Indians and was quickly adopted by the settlers. During the 1800s, Echinacea was claimed to be a "blood purifier" and was used for treating dizziness and rattlesnake bites. Echinacea was used as an anti-infective during the early part of the 20th century.

'Ruby Star' is a coarse plant with erect stems and daisy like flowers that have cone shaped centres. The flower petals are held out in a more showy horizontal position than any other Echinacea. A fabulous front of the border plant that acts as a showpiece or just as stunning as a pot plant. The beautiful daisy-like flowers attract butterflies that congregate on the blossoms and later the attractive seed heads provide nourishment for a variety of birds. With its red tinted flower stems only adding to the beauty of this plant it is a mainstay for any perennial border. To propagate this plant take basal cuttings from the young shoots or divide the spreading clump in spring.

This Echinacea was chosen for its dwarf characteristics. It therefore suits smaller gardens as well as gardens in which there is little room left! A great cut flower, either in full bloom when it is a ruby red to pink, or in the early stages of seed development. The dried seedpods making exquisite decorations throughout the year. Cutting back spent flowers encourages further flower production. This plant loves the sun and is perfect for a sunny border, prairie garden or wild flower meadow. Soft-textured plants should be planted nearby to offset the Echinacea's rigid texture and the bold statement that it makes.