

# *Petalostemum purpureum*

# Purple Prairie Clover

## Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Mesic prairie species. Species does not tolerate inundation.

## Wildlife Value

Highly palatable and nutritious for grazing.

## Application/Zone

Used for upland slope buffer stabilization. Deep taproot with extensive vertical branching helps to stabilize sandy soils in prairie and dry slopes.

## Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Propagation is best by seed. Seed can be scarified by removing the hull, stratifying at 33-38° F for 10 days. Inoculation with Santofoin type F rhizobium produces more vigorous plants, but is not necessary. Seed can then be planted in the spring and will emerge in 6 to 10 days.
- Seed can also be planted in the fall for overwintering instead of the above treatments, but the treatments may increase the germination rate.
- Transplanting is difficult because of the deep taproot but can be done with potted plants.
- This species is not competitive in early growth and may be difficult to establish in clayey, reworked soil.

# Purple Prairie Clover

*Petalostemum purpureum*

## Mature Height

1-3 feet

## Plant Type

Perennial herb

## Indicator Status

Upland

## pH

5.5-6.5

## Nutrient Load Tolerance

Low

## Salt Tolerance

Not available

## Siltation Tolerance

Low

## Flowering Color and Time

Purple

July to September

## Light Preference

Full sun

## Seeding Rate

.25 lbs/acre

