**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