

Care Guide for Echinacea

Echinacea, or coneflower, is a hardy perennial that attracts pollinators like bees and butterflies. These low-maintenance plants bloom from mid-summer to fall, bringing long-lasting colour to garden beds and naturalized areas.



Light

- Plant in full sun (6+ hours of direct light per day).
- Tolerates light shade but with fewer blooms.

Watering

- Water regularly during the first season to help roots establish.
- Once established, water only during extended dry spells.
- Avoid overwatering—Echinacea prefers dry to average soil.

Soil and Planting

- Requires well-draining soil.
- Avoid compacted or heavy clay soils.
- Prefers slightly acidic to neutral soil (pH 6.0–7.0).
- Space plants 18–24" apart to maintain air flow and reduce disease risk.

Growth and Size

- Grows 24" tall and 18" wide.
- Upright growth—ideal for the middle or back of a garden bed.

Fertilizing

- Not usually needed if soil is healthy.
- In poor soil, use a slow-release, balanced fertilizer in spring.
- Avoid over-fertilizing—this can reduce flowering.

Pruning and Deadheading

- Deadhead to promote continued blooming.
- Leave some seed heads in fall to feed birds.
- Cut back dead stems to the ground in early spring.

Winter Care

- Hardy in Zones 3–9.
- Add a thin mulch layer in late fall for extra protection in colder regions.
- Leaving dried stems over winter helps wildlife and adds winter interest.

Pest and Disease Management

- If aphids or Japanese beetles are found on your plant, remove them by hand or use insecticidal soap.
- Good drainage and proper spacing help prevent fungal issues.

Bonus Tips

- Avoid frequent dividing—they prefer to stay in place.
- Pairs well with black-eyed Susan, yarrow, and ornamental grasses.

