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### **Big Sky Sundown Coneflower**

*Echinacea 'Big Sky Sundown'*

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: 4

Group/Class: Big Sky Series

#### **Description:**

Fragrant, narrow, deep orange red petals with a dark brown cone center. Prolific and long blooming. Drought tolerant. Attracts butterflies. Great cut flower.

#### **Ornamental Features**

Big Sky Sundown Coneflower has masses of beautiful lightly-scented orange daisy flowers with brown eyes and gold tips at the ends of the stems from mid summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

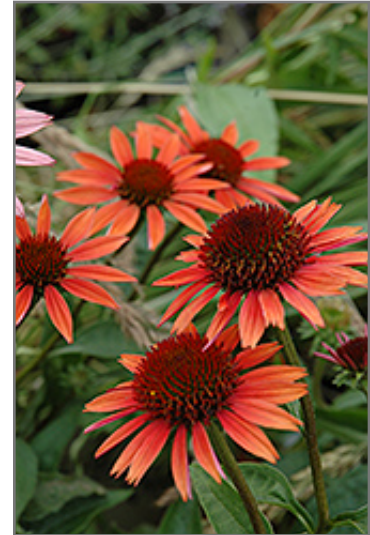
#### **Landscape Attributes**

Big Sky Sundown Coneflower is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Big Sky Sundown Coneflower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Big Sky Sundown Coneflower flowers  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

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### **Planting & Growing**

Big Sky Sundown Coneflower will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Big Sky Sundown Coneflower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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