

Joe Pye Weed

Eupatorium maculatum

Look for Joe Pye Weed on the right side of the bridge into the wetlands from the Middleton/Roost path and the west end of the Lodge bridge to the tennis courts. Joe is not shy and can be found in many areas, so just look for him.

This prairie plant is named for an American Indian healer, Joe Pye (Jopi), who used the plant to cure fevers and treat American colonists during an outbreak of typhus. Throughout history, the plant has been used as a remedy for a broad variety of ills that includes dissolving gallstones, easing chronic urinary and kidney disorders, bed wetting, poor appetite, dropsy, neuralgia, and rheumatism. As a tea, Joe Pye Weed is very soothing and will relax the nerves, cure a headache, and relieve indigestion. This versatile medicinal plant has also been used to treat hysteria, impotence, intermittent fever, sciatica, sore throat, urine retention, vomiting, asthma, and chronic coughs and colds.



Joe Pye Weed is a bushy perennial plant up to 6' tall with stems that are spotted or evenly purplish. The sharply toothed leaves form in whorls of 4-5, and the flat-topped, lightly scented cluster of flowers is in shades of pink to purple. The flowers are very showy, especially in mass plantings. Joe Pye Weed is a low maintenance plant that withstands drought fairly well and is attractive to birds, butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects. It's becoming more and more difficult to find this plant in the wild but Avenbury Lakes, as a conservation community, is fortunate to have multiple stands of this unique prairie plant.

Joe Pye Weed blooms July through September.