

DALEA PURPUREA Vent.  
Purple Prairie Clover

FAMILY: Leguminosae (Apiaceae)

SYNONYMS: *Petalostemon purpureum* (Vent.) Tydb.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from large, buried rootstalk, flowering stems 2-9 dm; flowers and fruits June-Aug.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This distinctive, showy species is unique among Ohio clovers; not likely to be confused with any other species.

TOTAL RANGE: S. MI, w. to Man. and Alb., s. to KY, AR, and NM; the var. *arenicola* occurs in short-grass prairies to the west and south of this range.

STATE RANGE: The only known specimen of this species in Ohio was collected in 1877 in Lucas County. Riddell (1836) attributes this species to Butler County. Moseley (1897) attributes the species to the south shore of Lake Erie.

HABITAT: A variety of prairie habitats with sandy or finely textured soil; riverbanks, or occasionally sand dunes.

HAZARDS: Mechanical disturbance of substrate; grazing by cattle.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Re-establishment is possible by the transplanting of rootstalks. This showy species is unlikely to be overlooked and was never common in Ohio; it is unlikely to recover naturally in the state.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering plants; do not disturb underground parts.

COMMENTS: This species is one of the most conspicuous prairie plants when in bloom. Potential sites in Ohio have been well botanized and the rediscovery of this species in Ohio appears unlikely.

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