



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Eryngium leavenworthii

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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www.wildflower.org

Common name

Eryngo, False purple thistle

Range

Plains and prairies throughout Texas, excluding far west and deep south. Stretches north to Kansas.

Life cycle

Annual

Bloom period

July - September

Growth habit

Prickly-leaved plant, one to three feet high, with gray-green, deeply lobed foliage, which later turns to purple. Flowers are small clusters with spiny bracts.

Soil preference

Clay or limestone soils

Exposure

Full to partial sun

Propagation

Although not widely available commercially, *E. leavenworthii* is easy to establish by planting seed in fall and spring. germinates in 5-10 days at 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit. For best results, plant seed immediately after harvesting.

Miscellaneous

E. leavenworthii is often confused with thistles, due to its similarity in both appearance and habitat preference. Splashing fields a brilliant purple, it provides an excellent source for late summer and early fall color. When picked (cautiously!), *E. leavenworthii* maintains its color and shape, adding a unique touch to dried arrangements.

