

prairie avens

Geum triflorum

FEATURES

Prairie avens is also known as purple smoke, prairie-smoke or old man's whiskers. This perennial herb has both stem leaves and basal leaves. The stem leaves are arranged alternately. The lower leaves are divided into thin, paired, uneven sections. The nodding, globe-shaped, purple or red-purple flowers have five petals. Flowers are borne in groups of three. The "smoke" and "whiskers" common names refer to the long, feathery, hairlike structures on the fruiting head. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Prairie avens may attain a height of six to 16 inches.

BEHAVIORS

Prairie avens may be found in the northern one-fourth of Illinois. It grows in dry or moist prairies. Flowers are produced from May through June. Wind is the pollinating agent.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Rosaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE



fruiting head



Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; hill prairie

