

Eutrochium dubium

Three-nerved (Coastal Plain) Joe-pye-weed

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



As reflected in one of its common names, this shorter Joe-pye-weed (formerly *Eupatorium dubium*) is native* to the Coastal Plain and can be found in eastern swamps, shores, and wet meadows. Its beautiful pink-headed stems wave in the summer breeze and provide landing platforms attractive to butterflies and other insect pollinators.

Perennial	Flowers En Masse and with Pollinator,** Fruit
Height: 2–5 feet	
Spread: 2–4 feet	
Bloom Color: Pale pink to dark purple	
Characteristics	
Herbaceous perennial with upright, unbranched solid purple to purple-speckled stems	 
Ovate , toothed, green leaves in whorls of 3–4	
Tiny discoïd , composite flowers in dome-shaped, corymbiform arrays, 4- to 7-inches across, bloom July to October	
Cypselae with 25–50 barbellate, bristled pappi	
Spreads by self-seeding	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil, wet soil, and salt	
No serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage	
Popular cultivar ‘Little Joe’ is a stronger performer as far as flower production compared to the species; both the species and this cultivar have excellent resistance to powdery mildew	
Attracts bees and butterflies to flowers and birds to seeds; larval host to ~2 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Humus -rich, well-drained	Buddleia davidii - Butterfly Bush
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Cleome hasslerana - Spider Flower (annual)
Water Requirements : Moist, Wet	Lythrum salicaria - Purple Loosestrife
Cut plants to ground in late winter	Lythrum virgatum - European wand Loosestrife
Use in borders, meadows, and naturalized areas and in cottage, native plant, or rain gardens	*It is native to DC and common in DE. It occurs mostly in MD’s Coastal Plain and in extreme southeast PA. It is frequent in VA’s Coastal Plain, and in NoVA is reported only in Fairfax County.
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3a–9b	** <i>Bombus bimaculatus</i> , two-spotted bumble bee.
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>	

Images by Elaine Mills, private residence, Arlington, VA and by Mary Free (bee), Glencarlyn Garden