

# Eutrochium dubium

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

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic  
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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. It also is found in Virginia's Loudoun County, Delaware's Piedmont, and a couple of interior Pennsylvania counties. 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*
Height: 2–5 feet	 
Spread: 2–4 feet	
Bloom color: Pale pink to dark purple	
Characteristics	
Herbaceous perennial with upright, unbranched purple stems	
Yellowish-green, ovate leaves in whorls of 3–4	
Tiny pink to purple flowers in dome-shaped clusters, 4- to 7-inches across on solid purple to purple-speckled stems bloom from July to October	
Spreads by self-seeding	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil and wet soil	
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 a variety of bees and butterflies; larval host to various moths	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Humus-rich	<i>Buddleia</i> species - Butterfly Bush
Light Requirements: Full Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Cleome hasslerana</i> - Spider Flower (annual)
Water Requirements: Moist, Wet	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> - Purple Loosestrife
Cut plants to ground in late winter	<i>Lythrum virgatum</i> - European wand Loosestrife
Use in borders, meadows, naturalized areas and in cottage, native plant, or rain gardens	<p>*<i>Bombus impatiens</i>, Common Eastern Bumble Bee, is one of various bee species that frequents Joe-pye-weed.</p>
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–9	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills (top), private residence,



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Arlington and Mary Free (bottom), Glencarlyn Garden