

Joe Pye weed

(*Eutrochium fistulosum*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Joe Pye weed is a robust summer-blooming wildflower that occurs in moist hammocks, flatwoods, fields and ditches. Its many wispy pink flowers attract a wide variety of pollinators and are a favorite of butterflies. The seeds are consumed by small birds.

Joe Pye weed has stout, unbranched stems that are purplish to light green with a white waxy coating. Its toothed leaves are narrowly elliptic to lance-shaped and arranged in whorls of three to seven. Leaves can reach up to ten inches long. The light pink flowers are born in small clusters that form a large, domed terminal inflorescence. Each flowerhead contains four to seven tubular disk florets that are each around 1/3 inch long.

The common name Joe Pye weed is used for several species in the *Eutrochium* genus. While the botanical origins of this name remain a mystery, research links it to Joseph Shauquethqueat, a Mohican tribal leader from the late 18th and early 19th centuries who used the name Joe Pye in dealings with colonizers.

This species was previously known as *Eupatorium fistulosum* and may still be listed in some resources as such.

Family: Asteraceae (Aster, composite or daisy family)

Native range: Disjointed populations in the Panhandle and east Central Florida from Putnam to Polk counties

To see where natural populations of Joe Pye weed have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moist, well-drained sandy, loamy or lime rock soils

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Growth habit: Up to 10' tall and 5' across

Propagation: Seed, cuttings, division

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North, Central

Garden tips: Joe Pye weed's impressive height and striking blooms make it a dramatic focal point in the pollinator garden — but placement is important. It is best suited for a back border among other perennials or in a naturalistic settings.

Plants are occasionally available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area. Seeds may be available from the Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative at www.FloridaWildflowers.com.

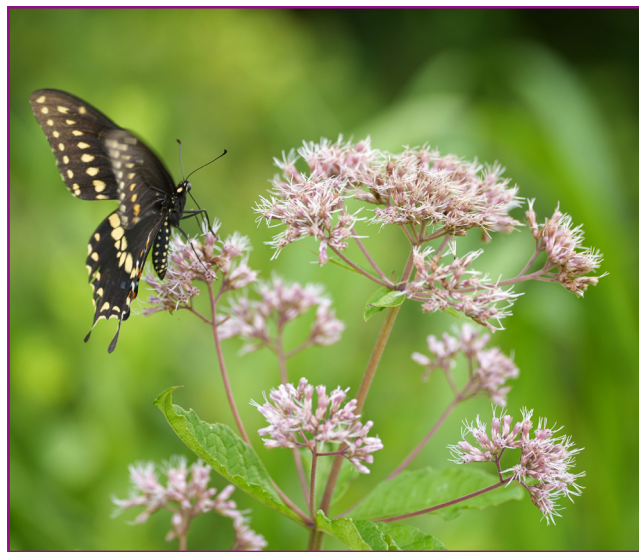


Photo by Emily Bell

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