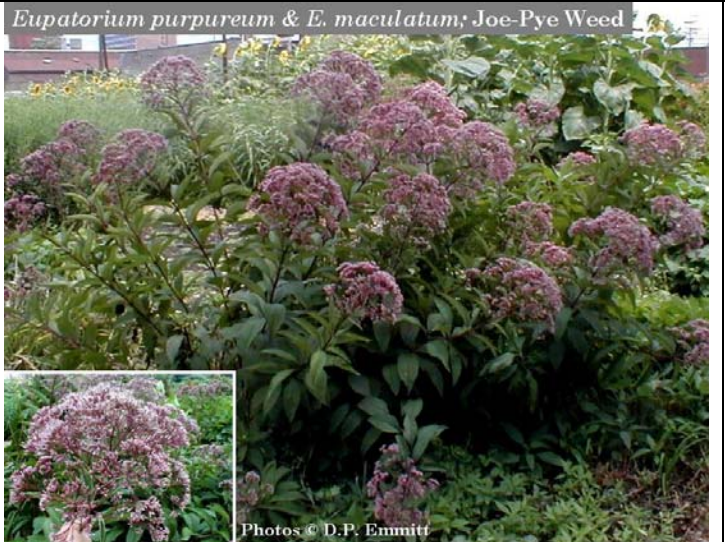


Eupatorium maculatum L.
Spotted Joe-Pye Weed &
E. purpureum L.
Sweet or Purple Joe-Pye Weed

There is a great deal of confusion in distinguishing between these two common species. Generally, *Eupatorium maculatum* has dull or dirty pink flowers and spotted stems (*maculatum* means spotted) though in some individuals the stems can be solid dark purple. *E. purpureum*, on the other hand has stems that are purple only at the leaf nodes (except the cultivar 'Atropurpureum' which has solid purple stems). Kinda gives one a headache, doesn't it?

At any rate these tall (six feet or more) denizens of meadows and ditches bloom late summer and early fall and seem adaptable to most soils and moistures except very dry, compacted soil. They are at their best in full sun and pests are few.



As with so many native perennials referred to as "weeds" by most of us, the Joe-Pye weeds got little respect until they had been "discovered" by European gardeners.