

Prairie Smoke: Old Man's Whiskers

Geum triflorum



Cultivation: The preference is full sun. Tolerates most any soil type, including sandy and clay soils. However, it does prefer a well-draining soil enriched with organic matter above all else. Young plants should be kept well-watered during hot summer weather as Prairie Smoke is adapted to a somewhat cool northern climate. Is low maintenance and drought tolerant. Competition from taller and more aggressive plants is not tolerated.

Plant Structure: Perennial. This is an attractive, 6-18 in. plant with foot-wide, basal clumps of ferny, blue-green, hairy leaves and reddish-purple, bell-shaped flowers that hang in groups of three. Clumps of feathery, plumed, pink-gray fruits stay on the plant much of the summer. The leaves of prairie smoke turn deep red in fall and are sometimes evergreen. Blooms May to June.