Plant Dossier

Below are several different plants that are used by the painted lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*). Before we can construct our butterfly garden, we need to know a little more about the plants. Your assignment is to find out what you can about these plants and report it in a Microsoft Word document. The plants are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bull Thistle</th>
<th>Red clover</th>
<th>Sunflowers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aster</td>
<td>Joe-pye weed</td>
<td>Hollyhock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmos</td>
<td>Cheese weed</td>
<td>Mallow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blazing Star</td>
<td>Malva plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each plant, students must list the following information:

1) The common name
2) The scientific name (in italics….genus capitalized, species lowercase)
3) A picture of the plant
4) What is the plant’s range? (In what part of the country does it grow?)
5) Is the plant an annual (it only lives for 1 year) or a perennial (it lives for many years)?
6) A brief description of the plant (2-5 sentences), including the size of the plant and any interesting facts you may find.
7) How much water does the plant need?
8) What pests (insects, fungi, viruses, etc.) affect the plant? (bonus for including pictures)
9) A list of the websites you used to find it. I need the specific websites: just typing Ask.com or Google or “My brain” is not enough. Each plant needs to have its own list of references.

You have today to work on this assignment. I’ve attached an example on the next page.
**Purple Coneflower**

**Scientific name:** *Echinacea purpurea*

**Range:** The purple coneflower can be found across the central and eastern United States, from Illinois to Georgia and as far south as northern Texas.

**Annual/Perennial?** The purple coneflower is a perennial.

**Description:** The purple coneflower is a perennial plant that is related to sunflowers. It is popular because it is drought- and disease-resistant, so it is fairly easy to grow. The plant grows to be 3-5 feet tall and produces several purple flowers.

**Water use:** The purple coneflower is drought-resistant and requires very little water.

**Pests:** Purple coneflowers can suffer from a disease called “aster yellows”, which damages their petals. Other than that, they don’t suffer from any major pests or diseases.

**Resources:**
- [http://www.gpnc.org/purple.htm](http://www.gpnc.org/purple.htm)
- [http://www.taunton.com/finegardening/pages/g00040.asp](http://www.taunton.com/finegardening/pages/g00040.asp)
- [http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/pest/fall.shtml](http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/pest/fall.shtml)