



Photo courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
Information courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>

Liatriis aspera

Tall Blazing Star, Tall Gayfeather, Tall Liatris, Rough Blazing Star, Rough Gayfeather, Rough Liatris, Button Snakeroot

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

A **spike** of rounded, rayless, pinkish to lavender (sometimes white) **flower** heads along stiff erect stems covered with grayish hairs. One of the popular gayfeathers, this **perennial** has an erect, slightly zig-zag **stem**, 1-4 ft. tall. The **stem** is lined with short, narrow, bright-green leaves. Button-like, magenta-purple **florets** cover the upper 18-32 in. of the plant.

This species is distinguished by its roughness and rounded bracts. The origin of the **genus** name is unknown; the species name is Latin for rough. Found in eastern North America from the east coast west to Texas and the Dakotas and as far north as southern Ontario, where it is rare and listed by Canadas Committee on the Status of **Endangered** Wildlife as endangered.

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Herb

Size Notes: 2-4

Flower: Pink

Size Class: 3-6 ft.

Bloom Information

Bloom Color: Pink , Purple

Bloom Time: Aug , Sep

Distribution

USA: AL , AR , FL , GA , IA , IL , IN , KS , KY , LA , MI , MN , MO , MS , NC , ND , NE , NY , OH , OK , SC , SD , TN , TX , VA , WI , WV

Canada: MB , ON

Native Distribution: S. Ont. to WV & SC, w. to ND & e. TX

Native Habitat: Dry plains; prairies; thin woods

Growing Conditions

Light Requirement: Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry

Drought Tolerance: High

Soil Description: Sandy or rocky soils.

Conditions Comments: Drought tolerant.

Benefit

Use Wildlife: Butterflies frequent Liatris spp. Provides **nectar** for butterflies such as: tiger swallowtail, clouded sulphur, orange sulphur, gray hairstreak, aphrodite fritillary, painted lady, red admiral, wood nymph (Wildtype)

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Attracts: Butterflies , Hummingbirds

Nectar Source: yes

Value to Beneficial Insects

Special Value to Native Bees

Special Value to Bumble Bees

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.](#)

Propagation

Description: Scarified seeds may be sown outside in late fall or stored, stratified and sown the following spring. Some sources suggest spring seedlings will appear by simply laying the flowering stalk in an outdoor seedbed and covering with 1/2 in. of soil in the fa

Seed Collection: Wait until the **flower** heads on the **entire** stalk have turned fluffy tan before collecting. Bring the stalks inside to air-dry then shake or brush the nutlets from the heads. Seeds can be stored with chaff in sealed, refrigerated containers.

Seed Treatment: Scarification (lightly nick with knife) and stratification (3 months at 40 degrees).

Commercially Avail: yes