

# blazing-star

*Liatris spp.*

## FEATURES

Blazing-star is a perennial herb. Several species of blazing-star grow in Illinois. The plant's alternate leaves are hairy, long and thin, up to one-half inch wide. The upright, unbranched stem is hairy and two to five feet tall. Its tubular, tufted flowers are purple. These five-lobed flowers are clustered into short heads that are further crowded into spikes. A spike may be one and one-half feet long. Its one-seeded, dry fruit does not split open at maturity and is elongated, with a tuft of hairs at the tip.

## BEHAVIORS

Blazing-star may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in dry to moist prairies and dry woods. Flowers are produced from June through October.

## TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae  
Phylum: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Asterales  
Family: Asteraceae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## ILLINOIS RANGE





© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2024. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.  
Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



### **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie