

## blazing-star *Liatris* spp.

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### 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.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

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

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