

hoary vervain *Verbena stricta*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Lamiales

Family: Verbenaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Hoary vervain is also known as woolly vervain. The common names of this plant refer to the hairlike structures that cover its leaves and stems. The stems of this perennial herb are upright and four-sided. The leaves are arranged opposite each other along the stem. These ovate leaves are simple, toothed and on short stalks. Rose-purple or pink flowers develop in spikes that may be nine inches long. A single flower is about one-half inch in length. The petals have a three-lobed part and a two-lobed part that are united at the base. The fruit is a nutlet, produced in clusters of four. Hoary vervain may grow from one to two feet tall.

BEHAVIORS

Hoary vervain may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in thickets, gravel prairies and fields. Flowers are produced from May through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge; gravel prairie

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