

marsh blazing-star *Liatris spicata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

A single plant may attain a height of up to 60 inches. This member of the aster family has unbranched, smooth stems. The leaves are thin, much like a blade of grass. Flowers are blue-purple to red-pink and attach directly to the stem. Bracts below flower heads are sticky, long, flat and purple or have purple edges.

BEHAVIORS

Marsh blazing-star is found statewide in prairies, wet meadows and sandy soil. Flower heads are produced from July through September. Pollinators are attracted to the nectar and pollen from this species.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; gravel prairie; sand prairie

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