

# prairie blazing-star

## *Liatris pycnostachya*

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

A single plant may attain a height of up to 48 inches. This member of the aster family has unbranched, hairy stems and leaves that are shaped much like a blade of grass. Blue-purple to red-pink flower heads are in a spike at the top of the plant and attach directly to the stem. Bracts below the flower heads are pointed, long and the tip of each bends away from the stem.

### BEHAVIORS

Prairie blazing-star is found statewide in prairies and some fens. Flower heads are produced from September through October. Pollinators are attracted to the nectar and pollen from this species.

### ILLINOIS RANGE





### **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie