

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.

HABITATS

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

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