

spiked lobelia *Lobelia spicata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Campanulales

Family: Campanulaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Spiked lobelia is also known as pale-spike lobelia. This perennial herb has leaves in an alternate arrangement along the stem. Basal leaves are oblong or oval, narrowed into short stems and up to two and three-fourths inches long. Upper leaves are sessile and smaller than the basal leaves. The small (about one-fourth inch), pale-blue to white flowers develop in a spike that is about 12 inches in length. Flowers have two, narrow lobes on the top and three, wider lobes below that form a lip. The fruit is a capsule. Spiked lobelia may attain a height of about three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Spiked lobelia may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in dry woods, prairies and thickets. Flowers are produced from July through August. The leaves contain poisonous substances.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; hill prairie

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