

Liatris spicata

Dense Blazing Star, Dense
Gayfeather,

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

USDA Symbol: LISP

North American Native

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Herb

Size Notes: 3-4'

Leaf: Green

Flower:

Size Class: 3-6 ft.

Bloom Color: Purple

Bloom Time: Jul , Aug , Sep

Native Habitat: Moist, wood openings;
mesic prairies; marsh edges

Water Use: Medium

Light Requirement: Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Soil Description: Moist, average soils.

Benefit

Use Wildlife: Butterflies frequent *Liatris* spp.

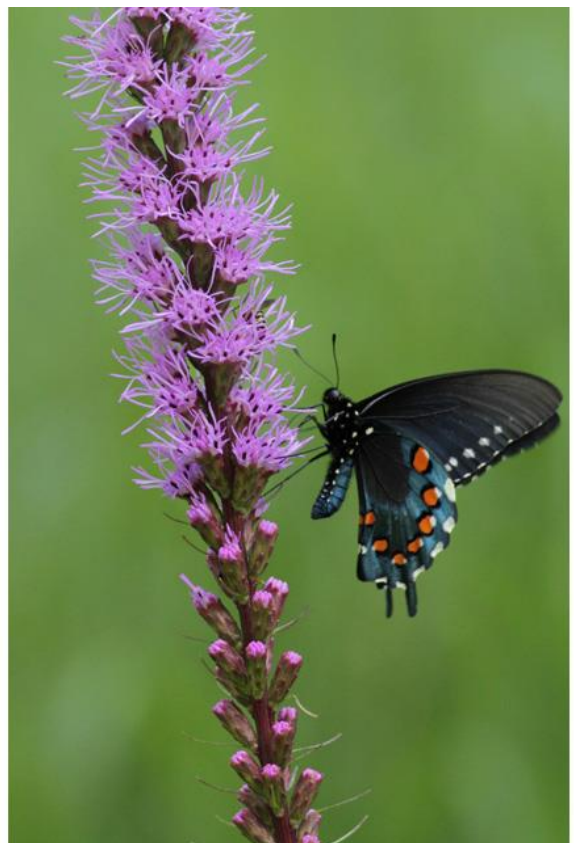
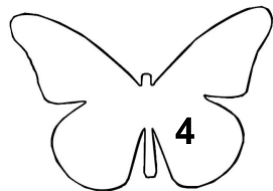
Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Attracts: Birds , Hummingbirds

Value to Beneficial Insects

Special Value to Native Bees

Special Value to Bumble Bees



Source https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=LISP



Dense gayfeather or marsh blazing star is an erect, slender perennial reaching a height of 3-4 ft. The linear, grass-like leaves are clumped toward the base of the plant, but extend up the stem to the showy flower cluster. A tall spike of rayless, rose-purple (sometimes white), closely set flower heads. The purple, tufted flower heads are arranged in a long, dense spike blooming from the top down.

The species name describes the elongated inflorescence, with its crowded, stalkless flower heads. The protruding styles give the flower an overall feathery appearance, hence its alternate name, Dense Gayfeather.

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at **The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**.

Propagation

Description: Scarified seeds may be sown outside in late fall or stored, stratified and sown the following spring. Some sources suggest spring seedlings will appear by simply laying the flowering stalk in an outdoor seedbed and covering with 1/2 in. of soil in the fa

Seed Collection: Wait until the flower heads on the entire stalk have turned fluffy tan before collecting. Bring the stalks inside to air-dry then shake or brush the nutlets from the heads. Seeds can be stored with chaff in sealed, refrigerated containers.

Seed Treatment: Scarification (lightly nick with knife) and stratification (3 months at 40 degrees).

Commercially Avail: yes

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

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