



Dense Blazing Star

Liatris spicata

Growing Information

- Plant Type: Perennial
- Sunlight: Sun, part shade
- Soils: Average, moist
- Bloom Time: Purple flowers in July, August
- Size: 12-24 inches in height; 12-18 inch spread

Also known as gayfeather it has an upright habit taking little space to grow. Well-suited for a small gardens, perennial border, natural or wildlife garden, or planted in masses. It is the most moisture-tolerant of the *Liatris* species. Cherokee used the plant, especially roots, in herbal medicine. Popular garden plant although not a native to Cape Cod. Native range is eastern U.S., but from Pennsylvania to the south. Good choice for a rain garden.

Garden Companions

New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*), Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Nature Benefits

- Attracts native bees and butterflies, birds, and hummingbirds
- Seeds provide forage for wildlife
- Nectar source for Silver Spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*), Painted Lady (*Vanessa Cardui*)

Natural Habitat

Occurs in wood openings, moist prairies, and marsh edges.