

Grass-leaf Blazing Star – *Liatris pilosa*



Photo: Bert Harris



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Photo: Isaac Matlock

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Habitat Notes:

Dry woodlands, shale barrens, clearings, and roadsides.

Species Identification:

- Pink to purple flowers
- Height 1-4 feet
- Stem glabrous or rarely pilose
- Leaves 1-veined, 5-30cm x 0.2-1cm, linear, glabrous, punctate, ciliate towards the base.
- Inflorescences spikes or racemes; heads 10+, sessile or on pedicels to 1cm.
- Phyllaries thin, oblong to linear, green purplish upward.
- Cypselae 2.5-4mm, hairy; pappi 5-7mm, barbellate.

Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun
- Sandy soil
- Good drainage, occasionally dry

Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: Attracts a variety of pollinator species.
- Birds feed on the seeds in the fall

Growing Protocol:

- Seed stratification: C(60)
 - 60 day cold moist stratification. Keep at temperature range of 33-38 degrees for duration of stratification.
 - Add water to stratification media periodically to ensure seeds do not dry out.

Collection Information:

- Fluffy seeds. Tugging the pappus can aid in knowing when to harvest. If the stem is still green and the seeds refuse to release with the pappus, its too early.
- Collect when stem is dark and pappus full and easy to pull.
- Shaking stem in bag can be an efficient way to collect many seeds.
- Grasping the base of the inflorescence and pulling up the stem and be a good way to collect seeds without having to cut much of the plant.

Pests & Disease:

- No known insect issues. Intolerant of wet soil and becomes lanky in the shade.
- Possibly susceptible to leaf spots, rusts ,powdery mildew, and molds.