

## Tall Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)

### Aster Family

**Other Common Names:** rough gayfeather

**Scientific Name:** *Liatris aspera* Michx.

**Plant Symbol:** LIAS

**Distinguishing characteristics:** Flower heads are in small powder-puffs interspersed along an elongate spike-like inflorescence; the leaves are widest towards the middle or tip of the leaves, but they are always very narrow, appearing linear.

**Plant Height:** 2-4 ft., erect

**Blooms/Fruits:** August–November

**Duration:** Perennial, herbaceous (with a round corm)

**Pollinator Value:** Monarchs are known to visit this plant. Bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers of this late summer/fall nectar source.

**Habitat:** Upland prairies, glades, openings of mesic to dry upland forests, pastures, and roadsides.

**Note:** There are several *Liatris* species that are similar in appearance to Tall Blazing Star. This species can be distinguished from others by having the bracts under the flower heads with thin, transparent margins which are purplish-tinged and appearing torn. The individual flowers are hairy within the floral tube, and the terminal head is NOT larger than the rest of the heads.

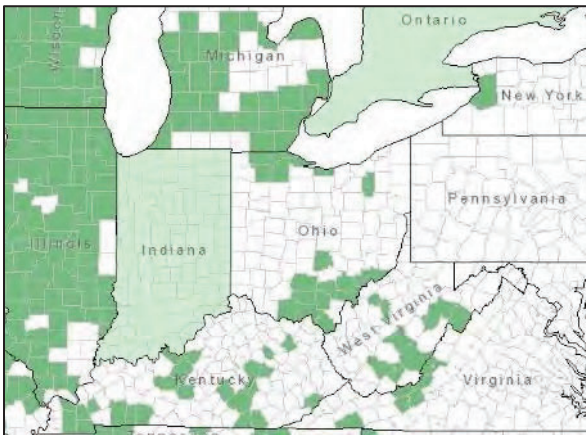


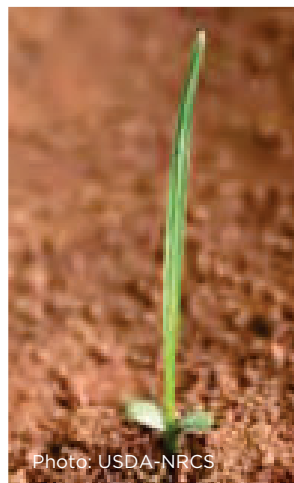
Photo: Sally and Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Full flowering/close-up of blooms



Mature plant



Seedlings