

***Verbena stricta* – Hoary Vervain**

COMMON NAME: Hoary vervain, tall vervain, wooly verbena

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Verbena stricta* – Similar to the Latin name of a common European vervain and *stricta* meaning “upright” or “erect”.

FLOWER: Blue-purple to pink tiny flowers tightly packed on pencil-like spikes. Each flower is about ¼ inch across with five spreading lobes.

BLOOMING PERIOD: late June to early October

SIZE: 1 to 4 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: A vigorous, clump-forming annual or short-lived perennial. The flower spikes bloom from the bottom up.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun and well-drained soil. Does best in poor soil. Will grow in rich loamy soil, but has difficulty competing with other plants. It is very drought resistant.

NATURAL RANGE: It is found throughout most of the U.S. and eastern Canada except for California, Oregon and several Atlantic coastal states. In Wisconsin it is found in most parts except for the far northern counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Flowers attract bees and butterflies. Four brown nutlets are produced per flower and are eaten by birds and small mammals. The leaves are egg-shaped or oval, 1 to 3 or more inches long. The leaves are host to the larval stage of several moths and butterflies, including the colorful common buckeye butterfly. The whole plant is covered with white hairs.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easily grown in average, dry to medium well-drained soil.

COMPANION PLANTS: Silky aster, bergamot, black-eyed Susan, butterfly weed, yellow coneflower, dwarf blazingstar, prairie smoke, prairie violet.