



## ***Liatris pycnostachya* – Prairie Blazing Star**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Blazing-star, Gayfeather, Tall Blazingstar

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Liatris pycnostachya* – Greek *pycnos* means “dense” or “thick” referring to the flower spike and also the leaves.

FLOWER COLOR: pink or magenta

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to September

SIZE: 6-12 inch flower spike on an unbranched 1-4 foot stem

BEHAVIOR: Hardy perennial. A dense spike of small clumps of 5-7 tiny flowers give this plant an almost fuzzy appearance.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best in moist, well-drained soils. Can be planted in full sun or in areas with sun most of the day. Prefers a pH of 6-8 (slightly acidic).

SPECIAL FEATURES: Very showy excellent butterfly flower. Can be used as a cut flower. The flower spikes may be heavy enough that the plant needs staking in a small garden. Ideal for prairie gardens mixed with medium to tall grasses to help support the spikes. Seeds attract winter birds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Best propagated by seed, but the corm can be divided. Seeds require scarification (lightly nick with a knife) and moist stratification (3 months at 40° F.) in order to germinate.

NATURAL RANGE: Damp prairies, Wisconsin to Minnesota and South Dakota, south to Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

COMPANION PLANTS: Culver’s root, eastern shooting star, spiderwort, rattlesnake master and tall grasses such as Indian grass and big bluestem.