



***Liatris aspera* – Rough Blazing-star**

COMMON NAME: Rough blazing-star

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Liatris aspera* - Aspera from Latin, meaning rough or harsh from the coarse nature of the leaves. It belongs to the aster family and was one of the many plants that Lewis and Clark identified on their journey to the Pacific Ocean.

FLOWER COLOR: Pink to magenta

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late July into August

SIZE: 2 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Tends to become overly tall in new plantings and may require staking in small prairie gardens. The flowers form in groups like buttons along the stem. They begin blooming at the top and bloom downward along the stem.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Must have a well-drained site, either on gravel or sand. It will not persist on heavy soils. Flowers best in full sun, but will tolerate light shade.

RANGE: Much of the eastern two thirds of the US (except for the Northeast) and south central Canada.

SPECIAL FEATURES: It is distinguished from other liatris species by its rough, narrow, alternate leaves along the stem. An excellent butterfly flower. Enjoyed by browsers like rabbits, deer and groundhogs so may be rare where these animals are common.

SUGGESTED CARE: If planted in dry soil, the corms (bulbs) will require watering during the first and second season. Once established supplemental watering should not be needed.

COMPANION PLANTS: On dry prairies it is with lead plant, azure aster, sideoats grama, yellow coneflower. On sandy soil and open oak woods it will be with little bluestem, butterfly weed, flowering spurge and spiderwort.