

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Verbena hastata* – Blue Vervain**

COMMON NAME: Blue Vervain, Swamp Vervain

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Verbena hastata* - *Verbena* is from the ancient Latin for any sacred herb, *hastata* meaning spear-shaped

FLOWER: Deep blue to purple

BLOOMING PERIOD: mid to late summer, often into October

SIZE: Up to 60 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: Erect biennial perennial that can form colonies by the rhizomes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun in moist sandy, loamy soil. Look for it in moist meadows, riversides, marshes, ditches, disturbed sites.

NATURAL RANGE: All of the U.S. and Canada.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The flowers are arranged in an 8 inch loosely branched, terminal cluster of densely-flowered spikes, blooming from the bottom upward. The tiny flowers are up to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch across and 5-parted. They attract bees and butterflies.

SUGGESTED CARE: Be sure it is planted where it gets adequate water. The tops of the plant can be pinched to encourage branching.