Prairie Blazing Star

Liatris pycnostachya

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Gayfeather

Description:

An upright clump-forming plant that towers to the sky with its tall flower spikes; visually spectacular when massed together along a border or as a garden accent; easily grown, hardy and disease resistant



Prairie Blazing Star flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Prairie Blazing Star has masses of beautiful spikes of violet flowers rising above the foliage from mid summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its grassy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.



Prairie Blazing Star in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Prairie Blazing Star is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Prairie Blazing Star is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Prairie Blazing Star will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.



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