Native Plant of the Year: 

Blazing Star 

*Liatris spicata*

**Unique Characteristics**

Blazing star’s upright purple flower spikes provide a bright long-blooming accent in the garden in July and August. An excellent cut flower, *Liatris* attracts butterflies and is a good native plant alternative to purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Native range: **Eastern North America**

Plant type: **Herbaceous perennial**

Hardiness zone: 3 to 8

Height: 2 to 4 feet

pH: 5.6 to 7.5

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Photos courtesy of Gary Popatzik (top) and Judy Sinner (bottom left and right)