

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

And

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AMES, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF NORTHERN IOWA GERMPLASM
ROUGH BLAZING STAR
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), the Native Roadside Vegetation Center (NRVC), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*, Michx.) for Northern Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Northern Iowa Germplasm Rough Blazing Star to document its original collections. Northern Iowa Germplasm Rough Blazing Star is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9068684.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of rough blazing star collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

Collection Site Information: Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the three tiers of counties located in northern Iowa.

Ecotype Description: Rough blazing star is a moderately long-lived perennial forb that grows 1 to 4 feet tall from a round, fiber-covered corm. Each plant carries one to a few unbranched stalks. The stem is downy and bears rough, narrow, linear leaves that are ½ to ¾ inch wide. The leaves are alternate and often have resinous dots on them. Twenty to forty small tubular rose-purple flowers are packed tightly in a head surrounded by a ¾ inch sessile cup of rounded bracts.

There could be a few to 150 of these heads on the stalk. They bloom in order from top downward from August to October. The seed is an achene, ¼ inch long, with a longer attachment of hairs (pappus). This plant reproduces by rhizome or by seed.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Northern Iowa Germplasm Rough Blazing Star is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Northern Iowa Germplasm Rough Blazing Star did not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of Northern Iowa Germplasm Rough Blazing Star include roadside plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Rough blazing star occurs on upland prairies to dry, rocky and sandy prairies. Rough blazing star is native to the prairies and glades from Ohio and North Dakota south to Louisiana and eastern Texas. Flowering begins in August and may continue until frost.

Availability of Plant Materials: G1 material is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or The University of Northern Iowa, Roadside Office, 113 CEEE, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293 (319 273-3005).

References:

An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants; p. 56, Christiansen, P. and Muller, M.; University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA 1999.

Flora of Missouri; p.1472; Steyermark, J. A; Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA 1968.

Wildflowers of the Tall Grass Prairie, The Upper Midwest; p. 221; Runkel, Sylvan T, and Roosa, Dean M.; Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA 1989.

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**Signatures for release of:
Northern Iowa Germplasm Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*, Michx.)**

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Richard S. White, PM – NPL
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