

Introduction

Floral Passion Blazing Star (*Liatrix elegans*) is a hardy perennial herb native to Florida. This herb is well suited for native plant reclamation of xeric sites, wildlife food, and as an ornamental. The source identified germplasm was collected by seed from a native site along State Hwy. 41, South of Floral City in Citrus County, Florida.

Description

Floral Passion Blazing Star (PI #9059730) has one to several long upright spikes, 3 feet tall or more, which arise from the woody corn tuber. Stems that have been damaged or grazed may produce multiple

spikes. Leaves are alternate, gradually decreasing from the base of the stem upward. Many lavender or purple colored flowers are produced on the spikes in the fall. Floral Passion is grazed by deer; flowers are favored by butterflies and bees.



Adaptation

Floral Passion Blazing Star is adapted to extremely coarse droughty soils, such as long leaf pine – turkey oak sandhills.

Establishment

It is beneficial to start with a weed free seedbed. Recommended seeding rate is 12.5 lbs/acre (bearded) or 7 lbs/acre (debearded) for 12” rows. Seed can be planted from fall to winter (October – February).

Management

Weed control can be a problem because this species has a very open canopy. Spacing rows to allow for cultivation is recommended, along with hand weeding. Cutting off tips of spikes during the growing season (June and July) to a height of 10 to 16 inches encourages development of multiple seed stalks. Ideal clipping height has yet to be determined. Unclipped spiklets are likely to lodge. Mow off seed stalks in late winter to get rid of last year’s old residue.

Availability

Floral Passion Blazing Star information can be obtained by contacting the Brooksville Plant Materials Center.



For More Information

Brooksville Plant Materials Center
14119 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34601
Phone: 352-796-9600
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/flpmc/>

or

Plant Materials Specialist for Florida
P.O. Box 141510
Gainesville, FL 32614
Phone: 352-338-9544

or

any USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service office

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Floral Passion Germplasm

Blazing Star

Liatris elegans



**Brooksville Plant
Materials Center,
Florida**