



# Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## *Liatris punctata*

*Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants*

4801 La Crosse Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78739-1702  
(512) 292-4200  
[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

### Common name

Gay feather, Blazing star

### Range

A dozen species of the genus *Liatris* occur in Texas. *L. punctata* is an infrequent to locally abundant species which grows on calcareous upland in the western part of the Edwards Plateau and in the mountains of the Trans Pecos.

### Life cycle

Perennial

### Bloom period

Late summer - fall

### Soil preference

Well-drained calcareous soil

### Exposure

Full sun

### Propagation

Gay feather can be established by dividing corms in late fall to early spring. Lift the mature clump and separate the corms with a sharp knife: replant and water thoroughly. Allow 2 feet between plants in a perennial border.

*Liatris* also can be seeded, but some species are slow to germinate and may not flower until the second or third year. Fall seeding is recommended because a cold period sometimes aids germination.

Success also has been reported with soft stem cuttings.



### Maintenance

Staking the stems will keep the flower spikes from falling over. A moist, fertile soil may cause a plant to develop long, slender spikes which flop over. They sometimes can be prevented from falling over by keeping the plant dry in July and August.

Volunteer plants can be limited by cutting stalks to the ground after the bloom fades. New stalks grow in the spring.

### Miscellaneous

This plant makes an excellent cut flower and, if cut at the beginning of its bloom, will retain its purple color and make an excellent dry flower for arrangements.