

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH412



LIATRIS

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Liatris
- Scientific name: *Liatris spicata*
- Native to prairie or grassland areas
- Plants have grass-like leaves and form stiff 2-5' stems
- Purple or white flowers cover the top third of stems in dense clusters
- Ideal plant for a butterfly garden
- Hardy in zones 3-10

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows best in full sun but will tolerate light shade
- Drought tolerant; media must be well-drained
- Fertilize before new growth begins in spring

PROPAGATION

- Easily grown from seed
- Sow seeds indoors at 65-75°F or directly into the garden in early spring
- Germination will occur in 20-45 days
- New plants will bloom in their second year
- Plants should be divided in spring every 3-4 years
- Newly divided plants should be set 15-18'' apart

DISORDERS

- Leaf spot (*Septoria liatridis*)
 - Small spots appear on leaves
 - Remove infected foliage
- *Verticillium* wilt

- Occasionally kills plants
- Remove and destroy infected plants
- Avoid infected soil
- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
 - White coating appears on leaves
 - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
 - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage

CONSUMER CARE

- Flower stems remain upright and require no staking
- Flowers bloom from the top of the stem downward
- Excellent addition to a perennial garden as a vertical contrast to broad-leafed plants
- Excellent cut flowers, both fresh and dried

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Liatris spicata*

- ‘Alba’: pure white flower spikes
- ‘Callilepsis’: long stems, purple flower spikes
- ‘Floristan Violet’: thick violet flower spikes
- ‘Floristan White’: thick white flower spikes
- ‘Kobold’: small variety with deep purple flower spikes

References

http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/plants/2002su_liatris.html
<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/Features/flowers/liatris/liatris.htm>
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/Liatris.htm>

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