

GODFREY'S BLAZING STAR

Liatriis provincialis Godfrey

Synonyms: none

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered



With narrow spike and heads with very short or no stalks, spreading at right angles to the stem. Photo © Alan Cressler

Field Description: Perennial **herb** to 0.3-0.8 m tall. **Basal leaves** grass-like, 15 cm long; stem leaves alternate, reduced upward; leaves hairless, with raised midrib beneath and dotted with glands on both surfaces. **Flower** spike narrow, 15 - 30 cm long; heads with very short or no stalks, spreading at right angles to the stem, with 3 - 4 purple disk flowers per head (no ray flowers). Bracts pointed, gland-dotted, usually purplish. Pappus of white, barbed bristles.

Similar Species: Flower heads of Chapman's blazing star (*Liatriis chapmanii*) are crowded, overlapping, and pressed upward against the stem. Slender blazing star (*Liatriis gracilis*) has rounded bracts, stalked flower heads, and long hairs on leaves and stem.

Related Rare Species: Florida blazing star (*Liatriis ohlingerae*) endemic to the Lake Wales Ridge, central Florida peninsula.

Godfrey's blazing star

Liatris provincialis

Habitat: Flatwoods, sandhill, coastal dunes/scrub, roadsides. Transition zone between coastal scrub and flatwoods on mainland near the Gulf coast. Also in the transition zone between sandhills and flatwoods, and in disturbed areas such as roadsides.

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall; late August to mid-September.

Range-wide Distribution: Three counties in eastern panhandle of FL.

Conservation Status: Endangered - State

Protection and Management: Burn coastal scrub every 10 to 25 years; sandhill every 1 to 3 years and flatwoods every 2 to 4 years. Avoid disturbance of ecotone between flatwoods and scrub or sandhills. Limit coastal development.

References: Clewell 1985, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey 1961, Muenchow 1993, Ward 1979. Weakley 2023.



Godfrey's blazing star flower. Photo © Alan Cressler