

Dense Blazing Star

Dense Blazing Star, also known as *Liatris*, is a native perennial that welcomes many pollinators to your garden. These adaptable plants are moisture and flood-resistant and love full sun. They are non-toxic to cats, dogs, and horses. Flower spikes can reach up to 5 feet tall. Seeds will need a month of cold stratification, or should be sown directly in the late fall for summer blooms.

Type: Perennial

Height: 1.5 m (5')

Exposure: Full sun

Difficulty: Intermediate



Growing

Cold stratification is the process of breaking seed dormancy through chilling. To artificially cold stratify seeds, place them on a damp paper towel in a sealed bag in the refrigerator for 3-4 weeks before sowing directly outside or starting indoors. To provide natural stratification, plant seeds outside in the fall for next season's blooms.

Sow seeds shallowly at only 3mm (1/8") deep. Seeds should sprout in 2-4 weeks. Keep seedlings moist but not wet. Transplant outside after a hardening off period. Space plants at 30-38cm (12-15") apart.

Saving

To save seeds, snip flower stalks after the petals die and turn brown, dry and fluffy. Cut as long a stem as you can. Slip this stem into a paper bag, putting it in with the spiky flower head toward the bottom of the bag. You can put more than one stem into the same bag. Close the bag around the stem base using a rubber band, twist tie, or string. Hang the bag up in a closet, dry garage, or basement. As flower heads dry, seeds will fall into the bag. Put the seeds into a dated and labelled envelope and return to Brock!