

GODFREY'S BLAZING STAR

Liatris provincialis Godfrey

Synonyms: none

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



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

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 (*Liatris chapmanii*) are crowded, overlapping, and pressed upward against the stem. Slender blazing star (*Liatris gracilis*) has rounded bracts, stalked flower heads, and long hairs on leaves and stem.

Related Rare Species: Florida blazing star (*Liatris ohlingerae*) endemic to the Lake

Godfrey's blazing star

Liatris provincialis

Wales Ridge, central Florida peninsula.

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: Not populated in Biotics

Protection and Management: Burn coastal scrub every 10 to 25 years; sandhill and flatwoods every 2 - 3 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.

