

Rough blazing star

Liatris aspera Michx.



Group: Dicot

Family: Asteraceae (aster)

Growth Habit: Forb/herb

Duration: Perennial

U.S. Nativity: Native, east of the Rocky Mountains, excluding much of New England

Natural Enemies

Attracted: Small numbers of *Chalcidoidea*, *Orius insidiosus*, *Coccinellidae*, *Thomisidae*, *Salticidae*, *Cantharidae* and *Plagiognathus politus*.

Pests Attracted: Small numbers of lygus bugs, leaf beetles and leafhoppers.

Bees attracted: High numbers (more than 5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including sweat bees and bumble bees.

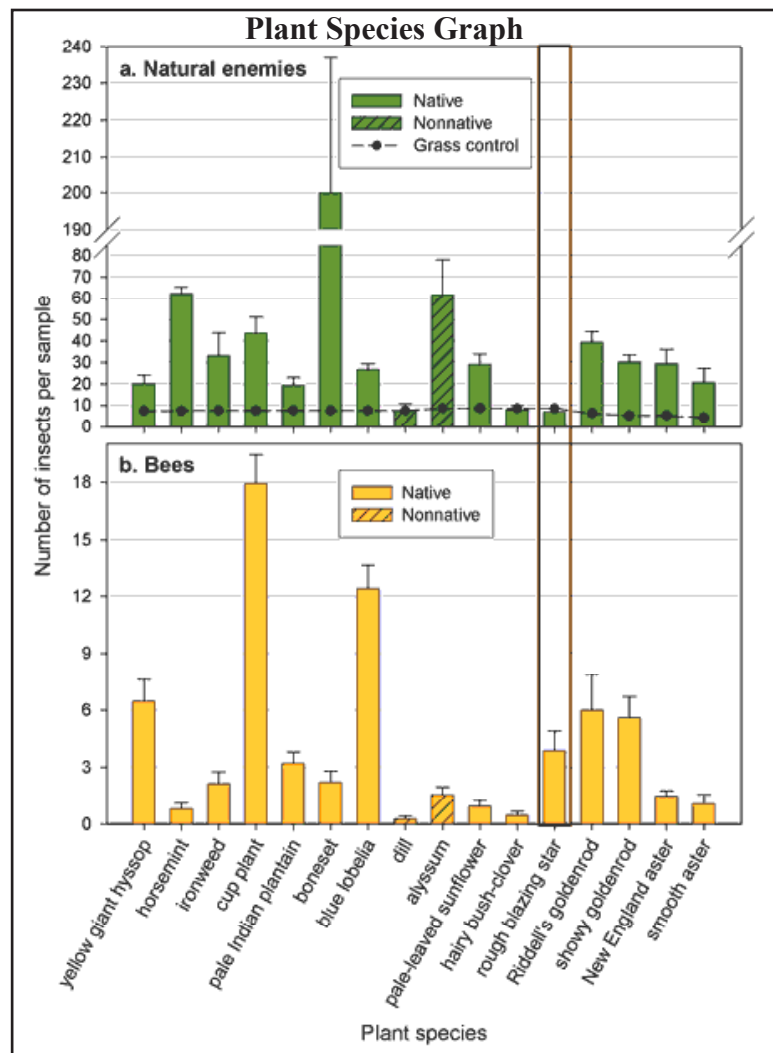


Species Notes: Vivid purple flowers about 1 inch wide are borne along a stalk 2-4 ft tall. Plants have narrow, sandpapery basal leaves that grew to about 6 inches tall, and were well-established by their third year of growth. Plants bloomed in late August and early September. This species was the second least attractive to natural enemies in the late season, with similar numbers of natural enemies as in the grass control.

About the Plant Species Graph:

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). Rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*) boxed in red.

Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



Habitat: Includes full sun to partial sun, and dry to average soil moisture. Naturally occurring in dry sandy areas such as plains, clearings, or prairies. May be associated with oak or jack pine woodland.

Cultivation and Management: This species is unpredictable and slow to grow from seed, but can be grown from plug material (flowers in second or third year).

Availability: Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

For more information: View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

