

Liatis

microcephala

North American Native



Liatis (lie-a-tris) Derivation of meaning obscure.

microcephala (mi-kro-sef-a-la) meaning tiny or short.



Zones: 4 – 8
Flower Color: Lavender
Height: 18 – 24”
Spacing: 16”



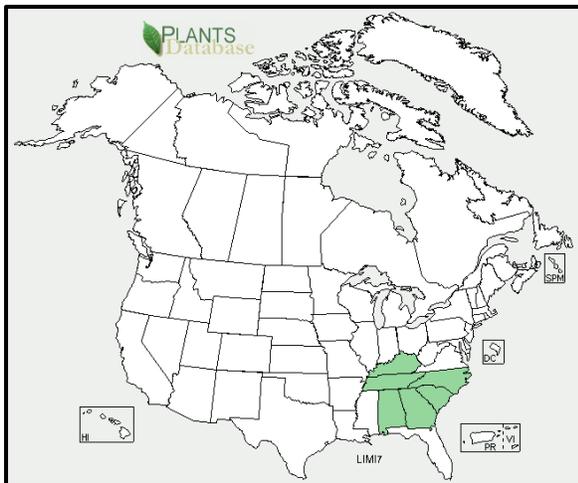
About the Species:

Common Name: Dwarf Gay Feather

Family: Asteraceae

The fine textured leaves of Dwarf Gay Feather are a shiny grass-like green with a compact habit growing in clumps. One of the few flowers to open from the top to the bottom, the lavender flowers bloom in clusters up and down the flower stalk from late summer to early fall.

Habitat: Dwarf gay feather can be found in sandy, dry prairies and open glades of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.



USDA Plants Database

Look-alike

One sunny day in early summer, Mary MicKey and Nancy Hall were hiking in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Along the side of the trail they saw tufts of what appeared to be some kind of grass. “That looks interesting. I wonder what kind of grass that is?” said Nancy. Mary answered “I am not sure, we need to look that up when we get back to work”. The next time they went hiking it was early fall and they were surprised to see the little grass-like plant was in full bloom, and not a grass at all but *Liatis microcephala*. This Dwarf Gayfeather, at first glance, does indeed look like a small grass when not in flower. Because Nancy and Mary have been educated to not dig up flowers in the wild, on their return home they looked for a commercial source. They found that most garden centers carried the tall *Liatis spicata*, but only a few special garden centers offered the diminutive *microcephala*.

In the Garden: Use this plant in rock gardens, sunny borders, containers, cutting gardens, as a dried flower, or in naturalized areas. Tolerant of clay and drought, it is a very low maintenance plant.

Liatriis spicata

'Floristan White'

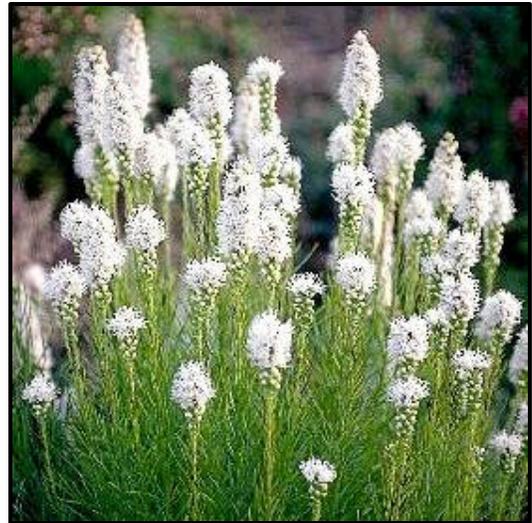
North American Native Cultivar



Liatriis (lie-a-tris)
Derivation of
meaning obscure.

spicata (spi-kah-ta)
meaning flowers in
a spike.

Zones: 4 – 9
Flower Color: White
Height: 24 – 30"
Spacing: 24"



'Floristan White' (White Gay Feather) flower stalks can be used with almost any other color plant, as an accent plant or to keep bold colors separated.

About the Species:

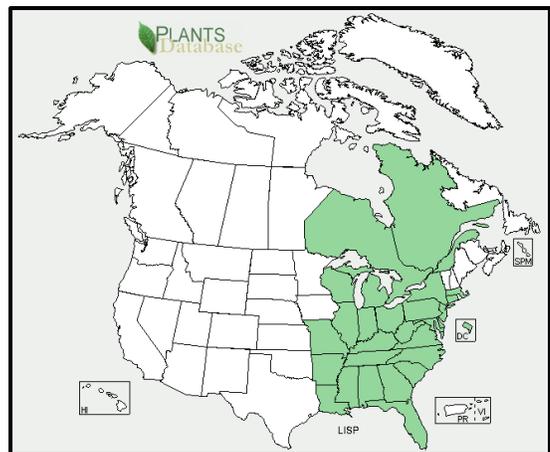
Common Name: Dwarf Gay Feather

Family: Asteraceae

Although *Liatriis* belongs to the Aster Family, the purple flowers consist of disc flowers only. Blooming in July and August, the bottlebrush-shaped flower stalk sits on top of grassy leaves. Gay Feather does not like soggy soils during the winter and care must be taken to insure that the soil is well drained. It is fairly drought tolerant when established. Good air circulation is essential to avoid powdery mildew. This is one of the few plants in cultivation that has the unusual habit of flowers opening from the top of the inflorescence to the base. After frost, the blackened flower stalks can be cut down to improve the attractiveness of the garden or left for finches and other small birds that eat the feathery seeds

Habitat: Found naturally in meadows, borders of marshes, savannahs, prairies, damp slopes and poor dry ridges.

Other Uses: *Liatriis* has become an important flower in the cut flower trade. Florists will include *Liatriis* in most of their bouquets and arrangements. They are long lasting after cutting and combine well with other cut flowers for an attractive arrangement. They will last up to 2 weeks at room temperature if re-cut and fresh water is added daily. Gay Feather also works well as a dried flower in dried bouquets.



USDA Plants Database

In the Garden: *Liatriis spicata* is easily grown in full sun in average to medium wet, well-drained soils. Try planting in borders, meadows, woodland gardens, wild garden, cutting gardens, and butterfly gardens. Long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers will visit *Liatriis* for the nectar.

Liatris spicata **'Kobold'**

North American Native Cultivar



Liatris (lie-a-tris)
Derivation of
meaning obscure.

spicata (spi-kah-ta)
meaning flowers in
a spike.

Zones: 4 – 9
Flower Color: Purple
Height: 24 – 30"
Spacing: 24"



'Kobold' (Purple Gay Feather) has tall spikes that will grow to 24-30 inches. The rosy purple spikes will combine well with oranges and strong blues.

About the Species:

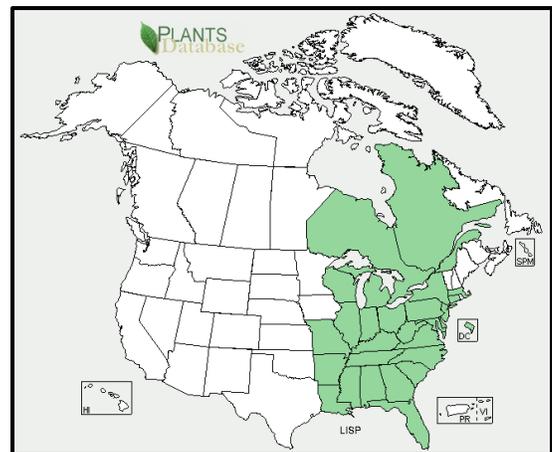
Common Name: Dwarf Gay Feather

Family: Asteraceae

Although *Liatris* belongs to the Aster Family, the purple flowers consist of disc flowers only. Blooming in July and August, the bottlebrush-shaped flower stalk sits on top of grassy leaves. Gay Feather does not like soggy soils during the winter and care must be taken to insure that the soil is well drained. It is fairly drought tolerant when established. Good air circulation is essential to avoid powdery mildew. This is one of the few plants in cultivation that has the unusual habit of flowers opening from the top of the inflorescence to the base. After frost, the blackened flower stalks can be cut down to improve the attractiveness of the garden or left for finches and other small birds that eat the feathery seeds

Habitat: Found naturally in meadows, borders of marshes, savannahs, prairies, damp slopes and poor dry ridges.

Other Uses: *Liatris* has become an important flower in the cut flower trade. Florists will include *Liatris* in most of their bouquets and arrangements. They are long lasting after cutting and combine well with other cut flowers for an attractive arrangement. They will last up to 2 weeks at room temperature if re-cut and fresh water is added daily. Gay Feather also works well as a dried flower in dried bouquets.



USDA Plants Database

In the Garden: *Liatris spicata* is easily grown in full sun in average to medium wet, well-drained soils. Try planting in borders, meadows, woodland gardens, wild garden, cutting gardens, and butterfly gardens. Long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers will visit *Liatris* for the nectar.