

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Liatris

Liatris is a perennial that can reach up to 5 feet tall and typically bloom with purple flowers. Gayfeather and Prairie Blazing Star are the most common varieties of Liatris. Liatris blooms in fuzzy blossoms resembling thistles. Liatris also is available in rose and white colors. It originates from the United States.

### To plant:

Liatris is most often grown from root sections called corms, but gardeners can grow it from seeds as well. No flowers will bloom until the second season if Liatris is grown from seed. Sow seeds outdoors in the fall eight weeks before the first frost. Sow seeds ¼ inch deep and 12 inches apart. Mist the seeds and continue to water until the ground begins to freeze. Germination will occur within 45 days. If planting from corms, plant the corms in the spring and the flowers will bloom by late summer.

### To grow:

Before the winter season, apply a 3-inch layer of mulch to maintain soil moisture and deter weeds. Begin watering again once spring arrives and water at the base of the plant. Liatris can grow as a container plant or in a flower bed. Liatris prefers an area with full sun but will tolerate a little shade, and it prefers slightly acidic soil. Some varieties can grow in rocky conditions. Liatris is deer resistant, and it is resistant to most other pests, as well. Due to their height, Liatris may require staking to protect the tall stalks. Just before winter, cut the flowers back to the ground. Liatris is hardy and drought tolerant, and it makes a good,



[Prairie Blazing Liatris seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

low-maintenance addition to the garden. Liatris may need to be divided every few years to better its growth. Divisions should be made in the fall after the plants die back.

### To harvest:

When Liatris blooms, the blooms open first at the top and then blossom down the stalk. Liatris make excellent cut flowers due to their long-lasting blooms and long stem. To harvest them for a vase, cut the Liatris when half of its blooms have already opened. To harvest for use as dried flowers, cut them when half of the blooms have opened and strip the leaves from the stalk. Hang them upside down in a dry, dark place for three weeks.

### What Liatris craves:

After the winter season and during Liatris' first year of growth, use a balanced liquid fertilizer in the spring and in the summer. During its second year, fertilize the plant once during the summer after the Liatris stops blooming.



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## Where to buy Liatris seeds:

Urban Farmer's Liatris attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies to the garden and make for an excellent cut flower.

Check out our Liatris seed selection on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



[Grayfeather Liatris seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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