

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
BROOKSVILLE, FL

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF FLORAL PASSION GERMPLASM
BLAZING STAR SOURCE-IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL
GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, announces the release of a source identified ecotype of blazing star [*Liatris elegans* (Walt.) Michx.] for Florida native plant production.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Floral Passion Germplasm blazing star. Floral Passion Germplasm has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9059730.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of native species of this type in Florida and this plant has proven beneficial for revegetation for natural forest lands and reclaimed minedlands, as well as a wildlife food source. The potential for immediate use is high.

Collection Site Information: The source identified germplasm of Floral Passion (*Liatris elegans*) was collected by seed from a native site by the NRCS Plant Materials Center (PMC) staff in 1995, along State Hwy. 41 South of Floral City in Citrus County Florida.

Ecotype Description: *Liatris elegans* blazing star is a hardy perennial herb with one to several long upright spikes (3 feet tall or more). Stems that have been damaged or grazed may produce multiple spikes. Leaves are alternate, gradually decreasing in length from the base of the stem upward. Many lavender or purple colored flowers are produced on the spikes in the fall. Adapted to extremely coarse droughty soils, such as long leaf pine - turkey oak sandhills. Grazed by deer; flowers are favored by butterflies and bees.

Ecological Considerations and Evaluation: Florida blazing star is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Florida germplasm did not meet the assessment of a plant which could become invasive, based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of Floral Passion Germplasm blazing star include landscaping, roadside plantings, minedland restoration for increasing plant diversity, and wildlife food.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Floral Passion is adapted to extremely coarse droughty soils, such as long leaf pine - turkey oak sandhills.

Availability of Plant Materials: The material is being produced in limited supply by the Brooksville PMC. For more information contact USDA, NRCS, PMC, 14119 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601 (352-796-9600).

References:

Florida Native Plant Collection, Production and Direct Seeding Techniques: Interim Report; pp. 61; Pfaff, S. and Gonter, M.A. 1996.

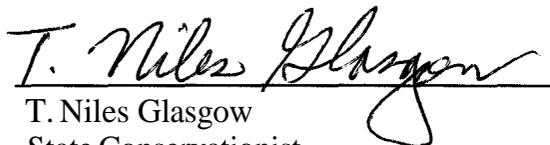
Illustrated Flora of the Northern States and Canada; p. 366; Britton, N.L. and Brown, Helen C.; Lancaster Press, Lancaster, PA 1923.

Prepared by:

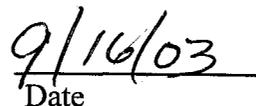
Clarence Maura, Jr., and Mary Anne Gonter, USDA, NRCS, Brooksville, FL Plant Materials Center, 14119 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34601.

Signatures for release of:

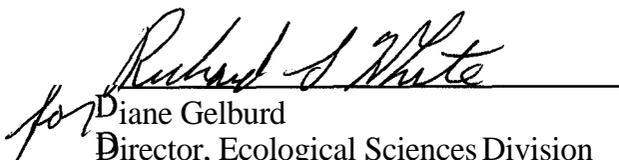
Floral Passion Germplasm Blazing Star [*Liatris elegans* (Walt.) Michx.]



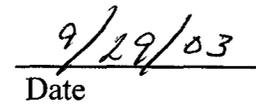
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Date