



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SPIKED BLAZING STAR CARE

LIGHT

Spiked blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) grows best in full sun, although some light shade is tolerated. A sunny position gives sturdier flower spikes. Floristan White, Alba, and Kobold selections differ in height and flower color; follow the cultivar label for spacing.

WATER

Water regularly while roots establish, then check during extended dry periods. This species appreciates average to moist soil more than some dry-prairie *Liatris* species. Avoid treating it as a plant that never needs watering, but keep the crown out of persistently stagnant conditions.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moisture-retaining, well-drained soil. Plant nursery-grown clumps at their existing crown level; follow supplier directions for loose corms. Leave room for neighboring plants without burying the crown under mulch. Containers need drainage holes and protection from repeated drying while flower stems develop.

FEEDING

Feed lightly only when soil fertility or growth indicates a need. Too much fertilizer can encourage soft stems that require support. Check the amount of sunlight and soil moisture before increasing the feeding rate. Follow the product label and avoid concentrated fertilizer against the crown.

SEASONAL CARE

Flower spikes open from the top downward. Remove spent spikes for neatness or leave seedheads for wildlife and winter texture. Retain healthy leaves while they replenish the underground corms. Leave some standing dead stems for nesting insects where practical, and clear only what is necessary in spring.

HELPFUL TIPS

This guide is specific to *L. spicata* and its identified garden selections. Other blazing stars, including *L. microcephala*, can favor drier conditions and should not automatically receive the same advice. Tall stems may need light support. Poor winter drainage can damage otherwise hardy plants.