

Culture Sheet: *Technical Information for Growers*

Name: *Liatris spp.* **Common name:** blazing star, gayfeather

Scheduling Information

Available sizes: 72s, LP50s **Sales Window:** spring, summer

Plug size	72
Finish size	Trade 1 gal
Weeks to finish	8-10 wks
When to pot	Early winter, fall

Growing on to Finish

Media:	Professional well-drained potting media
pH:	6.5-7.0
Irrigation:	Very sensitive to overwatering, growing medium must be well drained. Allow container to dry between waterings.
Fertilizer:	Moderate feeders, 150-200 ppm N every other irrigation
Light:	4,000-6,000 f.c. – plants require 14+hrs photoperiod for flowering
Temperature:	Days: 55-60° F Nights: 50-55° F Holding: 60-70° F
Pest & Disease:	Highly susceptible to <i>Verticillium</i> . Botrytis, <i>Sclerotinia</i> . Aphids and thrips rare
Pinching:	Not required
Vernalization:	10-15 weeks of cold temperatures (33-40°F) and long days

Grower Tips:

- For flowering sales, plants require vernalization treatment. Before cold storage, make sure plants are well rooted into containers
- Protect overwintering plants from rodents
- Leaves can become sunburned, especially at early stages of flower development which may cause flower abortion

Disclaimer: Cultural information is provided as a guide only. North Creek Nurseries does not guarantee the exact results, as growth and finish times may vary depending upon your location, climate, cultural practices and other influences. Always check manufacturers' labels for approved rates and usage instructions when applying fertilizer or other chemicals.

Sources: Ball Redbook Vol. 2 2011. Herbaceous Perennials Production 1998, Ball Perennial Manual



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Notes and Helpful Terms *Technical Information for Growers*

Notes on Pest and Disease: Pests and diseases listed are problems that commonly occur with this crop but not a guarantee that this issue will arise. By knowing it's common complaints, growers can develop strategies for monitoring and treating the crop.

Recommended ranges for EC, pH, and light intensity:

Light intensity is measured by foot candles, lumens, or lux. The light intensity varies by latitude, season, and weather from day to day. A general range we try to stay within for optimum growing conditions for our full-sun crops are 2,000-3,000 foot-candles ($600 \text{ umol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$).

We generally keep our pH range 5.8-6.2 on most crops. A pH of 6.5+ or above can lead to an iron deficiency in some crops, especially warm season grasses.

We measure the soluble salts in the soil using the EC pour-through method. Generally speaking, having a reading that ranges between 1.5-2.0 is optimum for most crops.

We are frequently asked about how to design and implement a production program. As each facility and production program is different, we urge growers to review the resources we have posted here or to consult with a grower consultant. We are happy to share information about our experiences regarding fertility programs, monitoring EC, light, watering regimes, soil media, and greenhouse production.

Here are some resources we find helpful:

Beytes, Chris. (2011) *Ball Redbook Volume 1 Greenhouses and Equipment* (18th ed.) Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

Nau, Jim. (2011) *Ball Redbook Volume 2 Crop Production* (18th ed.). Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

Nau, Jim. (1996) *Ball Perennial Manual Propagation and Production*. Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

Pilon, Paul. (2006) *Perennial Solutions A Growers Guide to Perennial Production*. Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

We also encourage growers to join and participate in the International Plant Propagators Society, of which the North Creek grow team are members. There is an IPPS group for each region of the United States – production information, trials, experiments, and experience are freely shared within IPPS and it is a valuable resource for growers, propagators, and other plant experts.



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