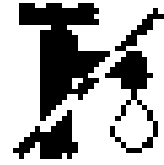


Blue Vervain



Verbena hastata

- **Use:** *Blue vervain is a pretty wildflower of meadows, shores and marshes. It is a good attractor of pollinators, and the seeds are eaten by a variety of songbirds.* The numerous crowning spikes of blossoms give a candelabra-like appearance to this graceful plant. and pest free, it's drought tolerant, too, but lovelier with some. As the alternative name Swamp Verbena suggests, this Vervain likes wet, even soggy, conditions but also will grow in medium soils.
- **Exposure/Soil:** **Full sun to partial sun are its preferred sun conditions.** Moist, well-drained soil, but not soggy. Water when top 3" of soil is dry. Drought tolerant once established.
- **Growth:** – Grows quickly to 2-6' tall and 1-3' wide. Cut back to 6" tall in late winter.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-9, Perennial, Short-lived perennial, but sets seed well.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous, Clumps of stiff upright stems with lanced-shaped leaves with toothed margins.
- **Flower:** The small, tubular, blue-violet flowers bloom from the bottom up in summer. is a magnet for butterflies and hummers.

Livestock will not eat Verbena so it may be thought of as "weedy" by some who observe it in a pasture setting. In a natural prairie it is not aggressive. In fact, it is a rather short-lived perennial that will not compete well with more aggressive vegetation. It self-seeds readily and is very easy to germinate, so it is a common component of many wet prairie seed mixes. The seeds are a staple for many small mammals and birds that depend on this widely-distributed plant.



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