

LIATRIS



LIATRIS SPICATA

COMPOSITAE

LIATRIS

PLANT

Liatris

FAMILY

Compositae

POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS

| Varieties | Cut Flower | Pot Plant | Garden Plant | Naturalizing |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Liatris spicata</i> * | ++ | -- | + | + |
| <i>Liatris callilepis</i> ** | ++ | -- | + | + |

* cultivated from seed

** propagated vegetatively by means of division

GENERAL

- ▶ **plant habit**
 - height 80 - 100 cm
 - flower colour and shape purple (sometimes white) and spike-shaped
 - leaf colour and shape green, needle-shaped leaf
 - inflorescence flower spike starts blooming from the top downward
- ▶ **original habitat** Central and North America
- ▶ **climatic preference** temperate, warm
- ▶ **type of bulb** (perennial part of the plant) corm-like roots
- ▶ **winter hardiness** good
- ▶ **sizes available + flower production** 6-8, 8-10 cm
- ▶ **period of availability** all year round
- ▶ **method of storage** from March, at -1°C. Disinfect first, and then freeze without filler.

COMPOSITAE

LIATRIS

CUT FLOWER CULTIVATION

GENERAL

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| degree of difficulty | normal amount to force into flower |
| varieties | <i>Liatris spicata</i> , <i>Liatris callilepis</i> |
| type of soil | all soil types. Frequent crop rotation because of danger of <i>Verticillium</i> . |
| fertilizer | moderate, 5 kg 12-10-18 NPK per 100 m ² |
| growth period | ± 100 days from planting to flowering |
| planting depth | ± 2 cm soil covering the roots |
| watering | generous |
| plant protection | thrips/ <i>Botrytis</i> |
| flower production | 1 to 2 flowers per root |
| cutting stage | uppermost cm of flower spike must be in bloom |
| treatment after harvest | Chlorine pill in water |
| additional tips | Providing <i>Chrysanthemum</i> netting can be necessary. |

EARLY FORCING UNDER GLASS

GENERAL

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| degree of difficulty | easy |
| variety | <i>L. spicata</i> |
| storage | cool, 0°C/-2°C |
| planting period | January-February |
| planting density | 60 (8-10) - 80 (6-8) roots per m ² |
| size of bulb | 6-8, 8-10 cm |

COMPOSITAE

LIATRIS

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| glasshouse climate | January-February: 10°C, March: 12°C, April: 15°C |
| flowering period | mid-May to June |

OUTDOOR CULTIVATION

GENERAL

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| degree of difficulty | easy |
| varieties | <i>L. spicata</i> , <i>L. callilepis</i> |
| planting period | March-June |
| planting density | 60-80 roots per m ² |
| size of bulb | 6-8, 8-10 cm |
| flowering period | July - October |

RETARDED FORCING UNDER GLASS

GENERAL

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| degree of difficulty | difficult. If temperatures are high, quick and somewhat lush early growth yields a limp, soft plant. Increasing moisture content in the autumn increases the risk of <i>Botrytis</i> . Decreasing light yields a limp plant and a pale-coloured flower. |
| varieties | <i>L. spicata</i> , <i>L. callilepis</i> |
| planting period | end of June to first week in July |
| planting density | 60-70 roots per m ² |
| size of bulb | 8-10 cm |
| glasshouse climate | cool, ventilate well |
| flowering period | ± 3 to 4 months after planting |

COMPOSITAE

LIATRIS

BEDDING AND GARDEN PLANTING

GENERAL

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| degree of difficulty | easy |
| varieties | <i>L. spicata</i> and <i>L. callilepis</i> |
| type of soil, drainage | moist, well-drained soils |
| planting period | spring and autumn |
| winter hardiness | good |
| location | sunny |
| planting depth | 5 cm soil covering the roots |
| planting density | 15 to 20 cm from each other |
| flowering period | July - August |

RECOMMENDED PLANT COMBINATIONS (MIXED PLANT BORDERS)

Examples of bedding and garden applications

| Species | Border | Beds | Perennial Garden | Container | Naturalizing |
|----------------------|--------|------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <i>L. spicata</i> | ++ | + | + | --- | + |
| <i>L. spicata</i> | ++ | + | + | + | + |
| <i>L. callilepis</i> | ++ | + | + | --- | + |