

# blue vervain

## *Verbena hastata*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Phylum: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Lamiales  
Family: Verbenaceae

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native

### FEATURES

Blue vervain is a perennial herb. Its leaves are arranged opposite each other along the stem. Each simple, lance-shaped or oval leaf is pointed at the tip, three-lobed at the base and toothed. Its four-sided stems are erect, branched and rough-hairy. Blue vervain may attain a height of five feet. The plant produces small, thin spikes of purple to blue flowers. Each flower has five petals that are united at the base to form a short tube. The flowers bloom a few at a time, starting at the base of the spike and moving up toward the tip. The fruits are four nutlets, each about one-tenth inch long.

### BEHAVIORS

Blue vervain may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in wet prairies, wet woods and field edges. Flowers are produced from June through October. The seeds of this plant are eaten by wildlife.



flowers

### ILLINOIS RANGE



plants with flowers



### **Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests; marshes; peatlands; wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; edge