

blue vervain *Verbena hastata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/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.

HABITATS

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

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