

## spiked lobelia *Lobelia spicata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Campanulales

Family: Campanulaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

Spiked lobelia is also known as pale-spike lobelia. This perennial herb has leaves in an alternate arrangement along the stem. Basal leaves are oblong or oval, narrowed into short stems and up to two and three-fourths inches long. Upper leaves are sessile and smaller than the basal leaves. The small (about one-fourth inch), pale-blue to white flowers develop in a spike that is about 12 inches in length. Flowers have two, narrow lobes on the top and three, wider lobes below that form a lip. The fruit is a capsule. Spiked lobelia may attain a height of about three feet.

### BEHAVIORS

Spiked lobelia may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in dry woods, prairies and thickets. Flowers are produced from July through August. The leaves contain poisonous substances.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; hill prairie

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