



Photo: Courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
Information courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>

Symphotrichum novae-angliae

New England Aster, New England American-aster

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Synonym(s): *Aster novae-angliae*, *Lasallea novae-angliae*, *Virgulus novae-angliae*

New England American-aster is large and showy, growing to 6 or more ft. in height. The perennial's hairy, clasping leaves are arranged densely on its stout stems. Showy, bright, rose-purple flowers with orange-yellow centers bloom in profusion at the tips of the leafy branches. The flower color is variable, ranging from lavender to blue to white. A pink variety of this species is sometimes grown commercially.

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Herb

Fruit:

Size Class: 3-6 ft.

Bloom Information

Bloom Color: Pink , Purple

Bloom Time: Aug , Sep , Oct

Distribution

USA: AL , AR , CO , CT , DC , DE , GA , IA , IL , IN , KS , KY , MA , MD , ME , MI , MN , MO , MS , MT , NC , ND , NE , NH , NJ , NM , NY , OH , OK , OR , PA , RI , SC , SD , TN , UT , VA , VT , WA , WI , WV , WY

Canada: BC , MB , NB , NS , ON , QC

Native Distribution: Que. & ME to SC, w. to e. Great Plains; also mts. of WY, CO & NM; naturalized elsewhere

Native Habitat: Moist, open, wooded areas; meadows; mesic prairies; disturbed sites; stream banks

Growing Conditions

Light Requirement: Full sun, part Shade

Soil Moisture: Moist

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Soil Description: Moist soils.

Benefit

Use Wildlife: Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower. Nectar source for Monarch butterflies.

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Attracts: Butterflies

Larval Host: Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) and checkerspot butterflies.

Nectar Source: yes

Value to Beneficial Insects

Special Value to Native Bees

Special Value to Bumble Bees

Special Value to Honey Bees

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#).

Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA)

Propagation

Description: Sow seeds, $\frac{5}{8}$ " deep, outside in fall or provide cold stratification. New England aster can also be propagated by softwood cuttings taken in late spring. Mature plants can be divided in the spring by sectioning off individual stems with their associated roots.

Seed Collection: The seed heads remain intact for several weeks after the first frost. At that time, shake the nutlets loose or pluck them from the head. Air-dry and store in sealed, refrigerated containers.

Seed Treatment: This species requires or benefits from a three month period of cold-moist stratification in the refrigerator. Damp stratify 4-6 weeks prior to planting.