



How to Care for your New England Asters



Magnificent in bloom, New England Aster lights up the late season landscape with dozens of purple flowers, blooming from early September to a hard frost. The bloom color can be violet, purple, lavender, or even shades of pink. Large and showy, this aster usually grows to 3-4' tall, but can reach heights of up to six feet high. Cutting the plant back by half of its height mid-summer will encourage bushier growth and shorter height. The flowers are an important source of nectar for late season pollinators, especially Monarchs as they stock up for their fall migration to Mexico.

This deer *resistant* native prefers moist, rich, well-drained soils, but is easily grown in a broad range of conditions, thriving in full sun or light shade in all but the driest soils. It does not like to dry out completely, so make sure to cover the soil with leaves or mulch. When New England Aster blooms the lower leaves usually dry up, and this is normal. Plant your new plants about 18-24" apart.

Asters are one of our Keystone Plants. A Keystone species is a species that is depended upon by so many other species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether without it. Bees and butterflies are frequent visitors to this amazing pollinator favorite, and larval host for 11 species of moths and butterflies, including the Pearl Crescent, the Gorgone Checkerspot butterfly and the Wavy-Lined Emerald moth. Other common names include Michaelmas Daisy. The caterpillars are baby bird food, and the seed heads feed birds all winter.

(Aster novae-angliae or Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)

