# Mary Gregory Aster

***Stokesia laevis 'Mary Gregory'***



*Mary Gregory Aster flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Stoke's Aster

**Description:**

A unique variety with light yellow flowers that are full and complex; perfect for containers and the front of borders; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden; tolerates summer heat well; water daily

**Ornamental Features**

Mary Gregory Aster has masses of beautiful fragrant double buttery yellow daisy flowers with yellow centers held atop the stems from mid summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

**Landscape Attributes**

Mary Gregory Aster is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mary Gregory Aster is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Mary Gregory Aster will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Mary Gregory Aster is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.