HERITAGE
FARM & GARDEN

Woods Blue Aster

Symphyotrichum 'Woods Blue'



Woods Blue Aster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Michaelmas Daisy

Description:

Mounds of narrow, dark green foliage are covered with sky-blue daisy-like flowers, adding a pop of color to autumn days; dwarf compact habit, ideal for patio containers, borders or garden beds; beautiful added to fresh cut arrangements; low maintenance

Ornamental Features

Woods Blue Aster has masses of beautiful sky blue daisy flowers with yellow eyes at the ends of the stems from early to late fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.



Woods Blue Aster in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Woods Blue Aster is a dense herbaceous 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 to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Woods Blue Aster is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Woods Blue Aster will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. 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 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Woods Blue Aster is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.