

Symphotrichum novae-angliae

New England Aster

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



Daisy-like asters bloom profusely late summer to early fall. Native to more northern parts of the Mid-Atlantic Region* and mountains of Virginia, in NoVA they may have spread from cultivation where they are often used in wild gardens and roadside plantings. For smaller gardens, the dwarf cultivar 'Purple Dome' has a low, bushy habit that does not require staking and produces abundant bright, royal purple flowers.

Perennial	Species Plant, 'Purple Dome' Flowers**
Height: 1–6 feet ('Purple Dome' 1½–2 feet)	
Spread: 2–3 feet	
Bloom Color: Purple, pink-purple, lavender, blue	
Characteristics	
Clumping, stout, leafy perennial with a robust upright habit	
Rough, hairy, lance-shaped, clasping leaves	
Showy purple rayed flowers with yellow centers bloom on branch tips from August to October	
Stiff hairy stems	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil, drier soil, and seasonal floods; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom to occasionally severely damage	
Ethnobotanic uses	
Attracts bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects; larval host for Pearl Crescent butterfly	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> - Bachelor's Button (annual)
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> - Mums (marginally hardy)
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Dahlia</i>
Pinch back to reduce height in June and July to produce more flowers and reduce need for staking	<i>Dendranthema</i> - Hardy Garden Mums
Good air circulation reduces foliar problems	
Prune to ground after flowering if foliage is unattractive and to prevent seeding	
Use in borders, butterfly, meadow or rain gardens	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–8	*It is native in DC; common throughout DE; and scattered throughout PA. In VA, it is infrequent to locally common in the mountains; infrequent in the Piedmont and rare in the Coastal Plain. **Flowers provide important late season nectar for pollinators like the bumble bee pictured.
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>	

Images by Elaine Mills (top), Glencarlyn Garden and by Mary Free (bottom), Sunny Garden