

Discovery Garden featured plant for September

Stokes Aster

Stokesia laevis

Also known as cornflower aster and stokesia.

Stokes aster is a low-growing perennial with a dense base of dark green, lance-shaped leaves. The numerous, solitary flower heads are 2-4 inches across, ringed with prominent rays of lilac-purple florets.

This member of the daisy family is native to the southeastern United States and naturally grows in wetlands, bottomlands, wet pinelands, savannas, and roadside ditches.

Low maintenance and drought tolerant, this plant is evergreen in warmer climates. It has no serious threats from pests or diseases and is resistant to rabbits.

Size:

1 to 2 feet tall and 1½ feet wide.

Best Viewing Months:

June through September

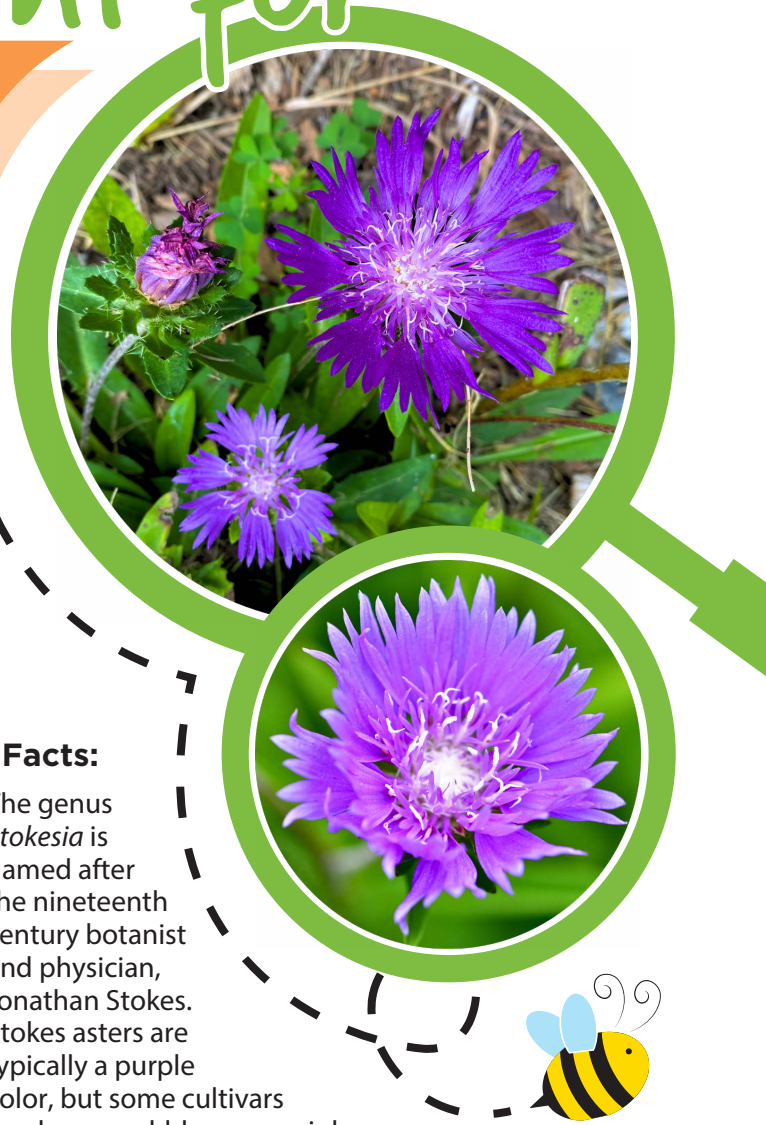
Pollinators:

Butterflies, bumblebees, and hummingbirds



Fun Facts:

- The genus *Stokesia* is named after the nineteenth century botanist and physician, Jonathan Stokes.
- Stokes asters are typically a purple color, but some cultivars produce royal-blue, rosy-pink, white, or even yellow flowers.
- Seeds can be sown outdoors in the Autumn, or may be kept in the refrigerator to be planted in the Spring.



Hands on!
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The Discovery Garden is tended by the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners Association and area volunteers.