

Discovery Garden

featured plant for

October

Aromatic Aster

Symphyotrichum oblongifolium

Also known as fall aster, wild blue aster, oblong-leaved aster and shale aster. This herbaceous perennial wildflower grows natively across much of eastern and central United States. Its name refers to the balsam-like fragrance produced when its leaves are crushed.

With numerous rigid stems sprouting from a central base, aromatic aster grows into a tidy, compact, self-supporting mound and may be grown as a flowering hedge.

It is one of the last wildflowers to bloom each growing season, erupting in rosy, lavender, or violet daisy-like flowers in late fall.

It prefers well-drained moist to dry soils but is adaptable as it can grow in rocky or sandy conditions. The plant is self-seeding and may spread easily on its own. It is resistant to deer and rabbits.

Fun Facts:

- Despite its visual resemblance to a daisy, asters are members of the sunflower family.
- Aromatic Aster makes a fragrant addition to any fresh flower arrangement, as the cut flowers last for a long time.
- Tea made from the roots of the plant has been used in herbalist remedies to treat fevers.



Best Viewing Months:
September to November

Growing Size:
1-3 feet tall and wide

Pollinators:
Bees, Butterflies, and Moths

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