

*Aster novae-angliae* L.

(*Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (L.) G. L. Nesom)

New England Aster

New England aster is a common meadow wildflower whose flower heads have deep violet rays that set off the golden yellow disks. This is another heavily hybridized species but packets of seeds of the basic species can still be purchased at your local garden center. Rarely attaining heights of more than four feet in the wild this plant attained a height of at least eight feet in my own garden.

Pests are few and this plant will perform well in full sun in average well-drained soils. This is a prolific late-summer early-fall bloomer that should be used with caution. Why, you ask? I allowed the eight foot specimen mentioned above to go to seed in an attempt to attract winter birds. I spent the entire next summer digging uncounted numbers of unwanted seedlings out of my garden! So my advice is to cut it to the ground after the first frost.



The synonym in parentheses above is not an older name but a proposed (perhaps accepted) new scientific name for this plant.