



New England Aster, *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*



Flowering Period: Mid September - Early November

Height: 12-40"

Bloom Characteristics: Yellow to dark red disc, Blue-violet-reddish purple rays

Growth preference: well-drained lowland prairies and open woodlands, moist bottomland along streams, shrubby swamps, and disturbed areas such as roadsides, full sun and tolerates partial shade

Asters are an excellent late-season source of nectar and pollen for non-pollinating insects and butterflies. New England aster is recommended for use in butterfly gardens and is the preferred late nectar source of butterflies. Butterflies can save energy by staying at one flower for an extended period and the landing pad and striking color difference make them easy to navigate. While butterflies are frequent visitors, asters are formed in a way that accommodates many types and sizes of pollinators and are considered generalist plants.

Larval Host Plant For: Pearl Crescent butterfly *Phyciodes tharos*, Canadian Sonia Moth *Sonia canadana*,

Specialist Bee: Mining Bee, *Andrena simplex*

Common Visitors:

Flies- Bee Flies, Syrphid Flies

Bees- Cuckoo Bees, Bumble Bees, Miner Bees, and Leaf-cutter Bees

Moths- Arcigera Flower Moth

Butterflies- Common Buckeye Butterfly, Northern and Pearl Crescent Butterfly

