



## Blue Wood Aster (*Symphyotricum cordifolium*)

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The Blue Wood Aster is a native sturdy, bushy perennial with upright-arching stems producing daisy-like flowers in late summer and fall. The showy blooms range from pale to dark blue and make great cut flowers. The name is derived from the lower leaves which are heart shaped. Works well in butterfly, native, pollinator and cottage gardens, as well as containers.

<b>Type</b>	Woody, herbaceous perennial
<b>Hardiness Zone</b>	4 - 8
<b>Sun</b>	Full sun, part shade
<b>Bloom Time</b>	August - late September
<b>Height</b>	2' - 5'
<b>Spread</b>	1' - 2'
<b>Tolerance</b>	Drought tolerant; tolerates clay soil
<b>Attracts</b>	Bees, butterflies and other pollinators
<b>Additional Features</b>	Deer resistant; rabbit resistant

### Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: moist but well-drained soil
- Soil pH: acid, alkaline, neutral
- Type: chalk, sand, loam, clay, high organic matter
- Planting considerations: meadow, slope/bank, woodland, naturalized area

### Planting Recommendations

- Type: seed, division, or separation; may self-seed
- When to plant: spring
- Depth of planting: start indoors during winter 1" deep in pots, need 4 - 6 weeks to simulate winter dormancy to kickstart germination
- Mulching: mulch to keep soil cool
- Spacing: 24"
- Spread: 2' - 4'
- Division/transplant tips: Divide in spring



## Maintenance

- Watering: moderate
- Fertilization: add thin layer of compost or fertilizer under mulch in spring
- Pinching/deadheading: pinch prior to mid-July to produce bushier plants; deadheading after flowering will prevent self-seeding.
- Annual maintenance: taller varieties require staking, cut back plants in late fall

## Common Problems

Disease: powdery mildew, verticillium wilt; rust, good air circulations reduces diseases

Insects: generally, pest free

## Resources

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/symphyotrichum-cordifolium/>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=444775&isprofile=0&gen=Symphyotrichum>

Questions or problems: What's wrong with my plant for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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