

## New England aster

# *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (L.) Nesom formerly *Aster novae-angliae* L.

**Group:** Dicot

**Family:** Asteraceae (aster)

**Growth Habit:** Forb/herb

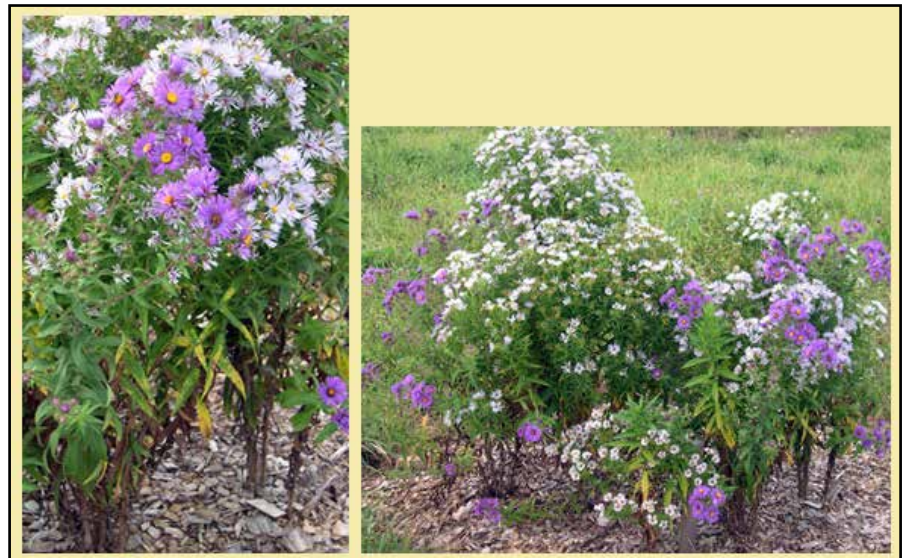
**Duration:** Perennial

**U.S. Nativity:** Native

**Natural Enemies Attracted:** Large numbers of [\*Orius insidiosus\*](#), medium numbers of [Chalcidoidea](#) and [Salticidae](#). Small numbers of [Coccinellidae](#), [Empididae](#), [Cynipoidea](#), [Ichneumonidae](#), [Thomisidae](#), and [Braconidae](#).

**Pests Attracted:** Large numbers of Lygus bug, medium numbers of leaf beetles and small numbers of leafhoppers, thrips, Japanese beetles and weevils.

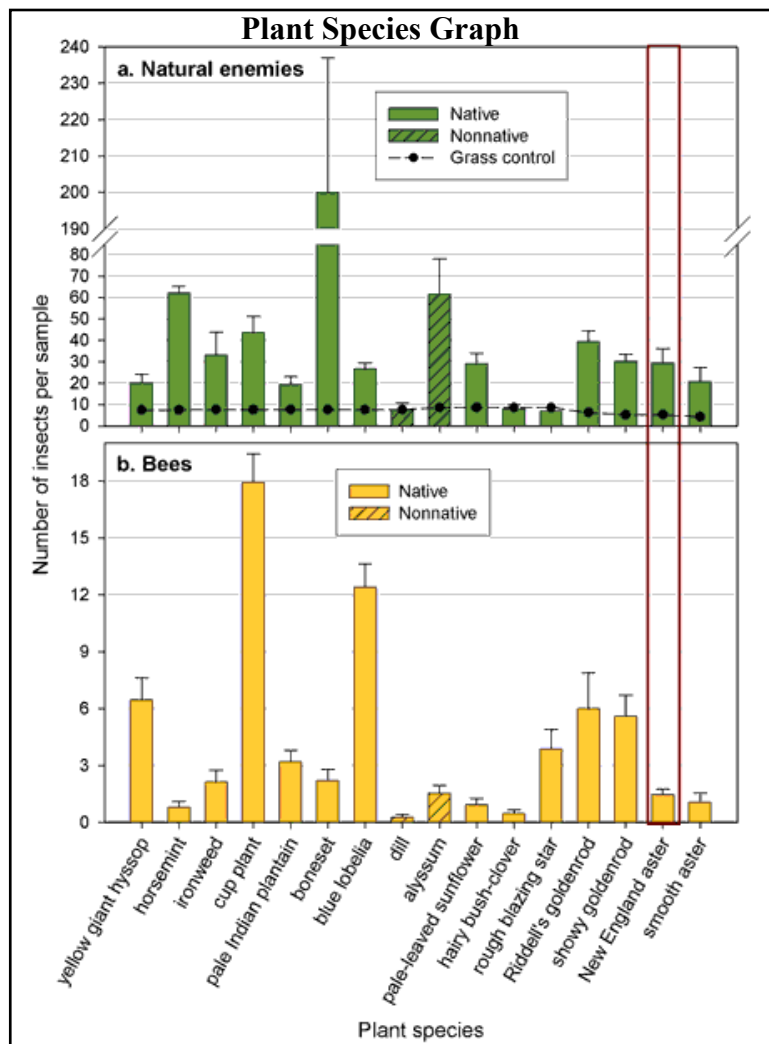
**Bees attracted:** Moderate numbers (between 1-5 bees per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including Andrenid bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees.



**Species Notes:** Vibrant purple and pale violet blossoms about 3/4 inch across graced the plant during September. Plants grow to 3-5 ft tall and this species filled in fairly well in our study location. This was the eighth most attractive late season plant to natural enemies, with more than three times as many natural enemies as the grass control.

**About the Plant Species Graph:**

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



**Habitat:** Full sun to partial shade, and dry to fairly wet locations. Naturally occurring in areas with open ground, frequently moist to wet areas, including meadows, fields, shores, shrubby swamps, fens, wet prairies, and edges of streams and rivers. Map indicates plant distribution by state.

**Cultivation and Management:** Can be grown from seed (flowers in second or third year) or plug material (flowers in first or second year).

**Availability:** Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

**For more information:** View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

