



Photo: Carol Rice
Prairie Moon Nursery

Scientific name: *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*

Common name(s): Aromatic Aster

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower)

Native: CO, Great Plains, Upper Midwest, Mid-Atlantic

Habitat: Plains, prairie, mesas, slopes, dry open ground



Photo: Snelinger Butterfly Garden

Aromatic Aster is one of the last Aster species to bloom in the fall and provides vital forage for bees and butterflies. To maintain a compact, mounding shape and stronger branches to support the heavy fall bloom, prune a third to a half of the plant's growth in early summer. Combine with Rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), Rocky Mountain Blazing Star (*Liatris ligulistylis*), Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*), Engelmann's Daisy (*Engelmannia pinnatifida*), other Asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*), Sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) & tallgrass prairie grasses.

Plant type: Perennial (may colonize by stolons)

Elevation: Native range to 7800'

USDA Hardiness Zone: 3

Exposure: Full sun, part sun, part shade (prefers full sun)

Soil: Clay, loam, sandy; well-drained (prefers poor, rocky soil)

Moisture: Moderate, low, dry

Flower color: Purple, rose-purple, bluish purple

Bloom time: Late summer to mid fall

Mature size (height x width): 15-30" x 20-36"



Photo: Ellen Wynkoop
Prairie Moon Nursery



Photo: Missouri Wildflowers Nursery

Propagation: Store seeds dry at 40 or 70°F. No pretreatment is required. Sow seeds a week or two after the last frost date in spring. Cover the seeds **very** lightly.

