

# Common Blue Wood Aster

(*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)

## Plant Spacing

18"-24"

## Moisture

Average to dry

## Soil Type

Clay, sand, loam

## Light

Full sun to shade

**Additional care notes:** Shade and drought tolerant.

Host plant for many specialist bees, butterflies, and moths!

## Flowering Time

August - November

## Peak Flowering

September - October

## Flower Type

Compound Flower

When asked to count flowers on your data sheet, you will count the clusters of flowers on a single branch. Asters have a complex growth habit so just do your best when counting!



## Initial Growth



## Flower Buds



## Flowering



## Seed



## Wildlife Benefits

### Supports Specialist Bees:



Aster Mining Bee  
(*Andrena asteris*)



Drury's Longhorn  
Bee (*Melissodes  
druriellus*)



Harris's  
Checkerspot  
(*Chlosyne harrisii*)

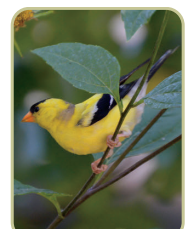


Pearl Crescent  
(*Phyciodes tharos*)



Aster Eucosma  
Moth (*Eucosma  
parmatana*)

### Attracts:



Seed eating  
Songbirds

# Planting Guidelines and Surveys

Throughout this experiment, you'll be collecting data about the plants you've received and the pollinators that interact with them. But first, we'd like to understand the location where you're hosting your plants.

1. Follow the planting guidelines below to get your plants in the ground.
2. Once your plants are in the ground, fill out the 'Planting Conditions' survey in Survey123
3. Submit weekly plant and pollinator data using the 'Timed Count' survey in Survey123

## Planting Guidelines

### Weeding:

- **Before planting:** Remove weeds in a 4 inch diameter around where the plant will go.
- **After planting:** Weed as necessary to maintain room for the plant to grow.

### Planting:

1. Dig a hole 2-3 times the width and just slightly deeper than your plant's roots.
2. If your plant is root-bound (i.e. the roots have formed a dense, tangled mass), loosen or tear some of the roots to allow them to grow out into the soil.
3. Place the plant in the hole and backfill with the existing soil - do not add special soils or fertilizers.
4. Press the soil gently around the plant to "put it to bed".
5. Plants should be spaced 12-18 inches away from each other.

### Watering:

1. Water your new plant immediately after planting in the ground.
2. Water around the base of the plant, not from above, until the soil is moist but not soggy.
3. **First 6 weeks:** Water your plants if there is no rain for 3 days.
4. **After 6 weeks:** Your plants should not require watering unless there is a long period (2+ weeks) of no rain.