Heath Aster

Symphyotrichum ericoides

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Heather Aster, form. Aster ericoides

Description:

A drought tolerant, upright bushy variety that looks stunning in rock gardens, borders or meadows; features narrow green foliage and volumes of dainty white flowers from late summer to fall; easy to grow, requiring little to no maintenance

Ornamental Features

Heath Aster has masses of beautiful white daisy flowers with yellow eyes at the ends of the stems from late summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its ferny leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Heath Aster is a dense herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Heath Aster is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Heath Aster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Heath Aster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Heath Aster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Heath Aster will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Heath Aster is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.