

# New England Aster

*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

## At a Glance

Height: 3 to 6 feet tall

Bloom Colors: Purple to lavender with yellow centers

Bloom Time: Late summer to fall

Days to Maturity: Perennial, blooms in second year

Best For: Pollinator gardens, native prairie plantings

## Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 65-75F for best germination

Soil Type: Moist, well-drained soil; tolerates clay

Light Requirements: Full sun to partial shade

Planting Depth: Surface sow or lightly cover

Seeding Rate: Thin to 18-24 inches apart

Moisture Needs: Moderate; prefers consistent moisture

Average Germination Time: 14-21 days (may benefit from cold stratification)

## How to Grow

When to Plant: Sow outdoors in fall or cold-stratify seeds for 30-60 days before spring planting.

Location: Full sun for best blooms, tolerates light shade.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 18-24 inches apart.

Watering: Moderate; keep soil evenly moist.

Fertilizer: Minimal; thrives in average soils.

## Tips for Success

Pinch back in early summer for bushier growth.

Divide clumps every 2-3 years to maintain vigor.

Leave seed heads for birds and winter interest.

Attracts late-season pollinators like Monarchs.

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## Fun Fact

New England Asters provide crucial late-season nectar for Monarch butterflies during migration.

## Companion Planting

Pairs well with goldenrod, coneflowers, and native grasses for a vibrant late-season display.

## Harvesting and Use

Cut blooms for fall arrangements or leave standing for wildlife habitat. Seed heads provide food for birds.

## Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow in fall or cold-stratify for spring
- Thin seedlings to 18-24 inches apart
- Pinch back for bushier plants
- Leave seed heads for birds