

# *Aster novae-angliae*

# New England Aster

## **Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance**

Prefers moist soil to wet-mesic conditions. Species has limited inundation tolerance. Germinating seedlings are killed by 2 days of inundation. Mature plants appear to tolerate short periods of shallow flooding in natural areas but not in reconstructed wet areas.

## **Wildlife Value**

Provides waterfowl cover. Attracts butterflies and honeybees.

## **Application/Zone**

Used on moderate side slopes in prairie matrix. Used in upper shoreline zones and for upland slope buffer stabilization.

## **Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance**

- Transplants, achenes, and rootstocks are available from several commercial vendors.
- Fresh achenes or achenes stored dry produce 95-100% germination in 3-8 days. Moist stratification of fresh achenes benefits germination. Drill or broadcast achenes in the fall and cover them lightly with soil for natural stratification.
- Mature plants may be divided in late fall or early spring. Pinching back young growth before July will cause plants to bush out. Spring cuttings of 1.5-2 inches may be rooted in sand.
- An April-May drawdown stimulates seed germination and plant growth. New England Aster can be aggressive and form monocultures.

# New England Aster

*Aster novae-angliae*

## Mature Height

1-6.5 feet

## Plant Type

Perennial herb

## Indicator Status

Facultative Wet

## pH

5.5-7

## Nutrient Load Tolerance

Moderate

## Salt Tolerance

Low

## Siltation Tolerance

Moderate

## Flowering Color and Time

Violet/purple, yellow center  
-greenhouse grown plants  
may vary in color  
August to October-

## Light Preference

Partial to full sun

## Seeding Rate

.03 - .2 lbs/acre

