

Aromatic Aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*)

Aster Family

Other Common Names: aromatic American aster, fall aster, wild blue aster, shale aster, oblong-leaved aster

Scientific Name: *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* (Nutt.) G.L. Nesom

Plant Symbol: SYOB

Distinguishing characteristics: Stems much branched above the midpoint, several stems developing from a woody horizontal rhizome; leaves basal as well as along the stem, the basal leaves usually absent when flowering, stem leaf shape is oblong to widest across the top, without a leaf stem, and they become progressively smaller moving up the stem; flowering heads numerous at the ends of branches, blue rays and yellow centers, about 1 inch across.

Plant Height: 1-2 ft.

Blooms/Fruits: September–November

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous

Pollinator Value: Visited by a wide diversity of native bees, flies and butterflies. Serves as a host plant for the silvery checkerspot butterfly. Particularly important in that it is one of the latest plants to bloom in fall, providing nectar and pollen at a time when few other native plants do.

Habitat: Calcareous soils, upland prairies, openings in upland forests, and roadsides.

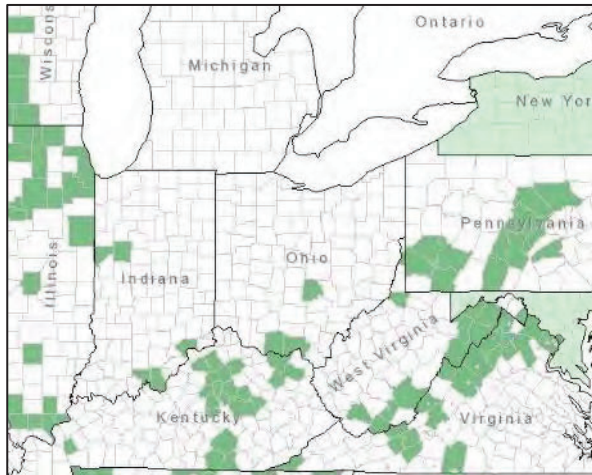




Photo: Mike Haddock



Photo: Mike Haddock

Full flowering/close-up of flowers



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Close-up of leaf/foliage