

Calico Aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*)

Aster Family

Other Common Names: starved aster, rosemary, white woodland aster

Scientific Name: *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (L.) Á. Löve & D. Löve
 SYLA4

Plant Symbol:

Distinguishing characteristics: Stems 1 or more arising from a short, woody rootstock and succulent rhizomes; basal leaves usually absent when flowering, when present widest near the top with a tapering base and a short pointed tip, and without a leaf stem; stem leaves progressively smaller up the stem, widest across the top and without a leaf stem; flowering heads numerous, small—about 1/4 inch across, white with a yellow to purplish center, and arising from inflorescences from the upper leaf axils.

Plant Height: 2-4 ft.

Blooms/Fruits: August–October

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous

Pollinator Value: Popular with a very wide variety of insects, including honey bees, native bees, beetles, flies, moths, butterflies, and plant bugs.

Habitat: Banks of streams and ponds, moist depressions in prairies, moist pastures, roadsides and waste places.

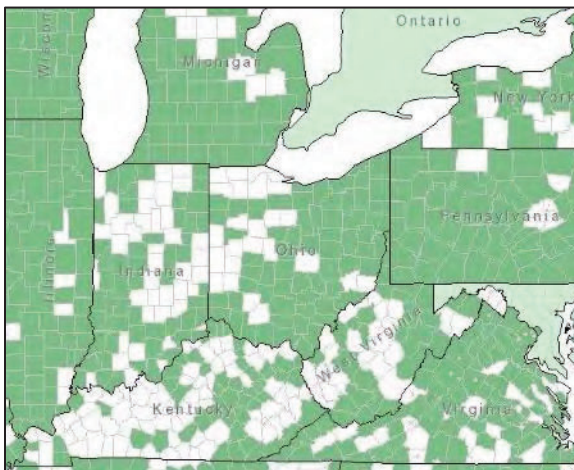


Photo: Stephanie Brundage, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Full flowering/close-up of blooms



Stem and leaf arrangement