

Common Blue Wood Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)

Aster Family

Other Common Names: heartleaf aster, broadleaf aster, aster cordifolié

Scientific Name: *Symphyotrichum cordifolium* (L.) G.L. Nesom **Plant Symbol:**
 SYCO4

Distinguishing characteristics: Flower heads many in loosely ascending, multi-branched inflorescence; floral rays blue to purple with yellow centers that become purple with age; leaves in basal rosettes and with smaller leaves up the stem, leaves of the basal rosette clearly heart shaped and with a long leaf stem, margins are saw-toothed.

Plant Height: 2-4 ft., erect to loosely ascending colonial **Blooms/Fruits:** August-October

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous (from slender woody rhizomes)

Pollinator Value: These flowers provide abundant nectar and pollen in the summer. They attract butterflies. There are a number of aster-oligolege bees that feed on the pollen.

Habitat: Rich, mostly mesic, rocky to loamy soils, open wooded slopes and bluffs, stream banks, moist ledges, swampy woods, clearings, roadsides, and along ditches.

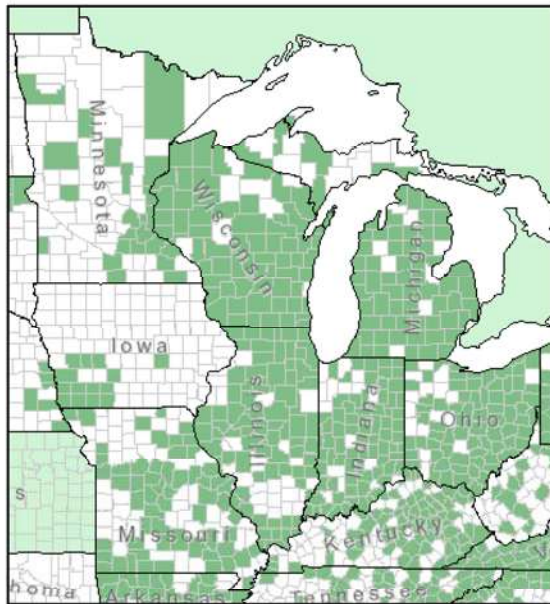


Photo: Sally and Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower



Full flowering/close-up of blooms



Close-up vegetative growth and leaf