

New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

Aster Family

Other Common Names: none

Scientific Name: *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (L.) G.L. Nesom
 SYNO2

Plant Symbol:

Distinguishing characteristics: Flower heads in many branched inflorescences; rays numerous (40-100) in each flower head, reddish-purple to purple and the disc reddish-purple; the leaves are widest at the ends, with a blunt tip and tapering base that clasps the stem, with 3-main veins per leaf, the middle and lower leaves absent at flowering; stems are hairy with interspersed gland-tipped hairs, 1 to several from the base and branched towards the top.

Plant Height: 2-5 ft., erect

Blooms/Fruits: July-October

Duration: Perennial, herbaceous (with woody rootstock and rhizomes)

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

Habitat: Bottomland prairies, moist depressions, fens, stream banks, pastures, fencerows, and roadsides.

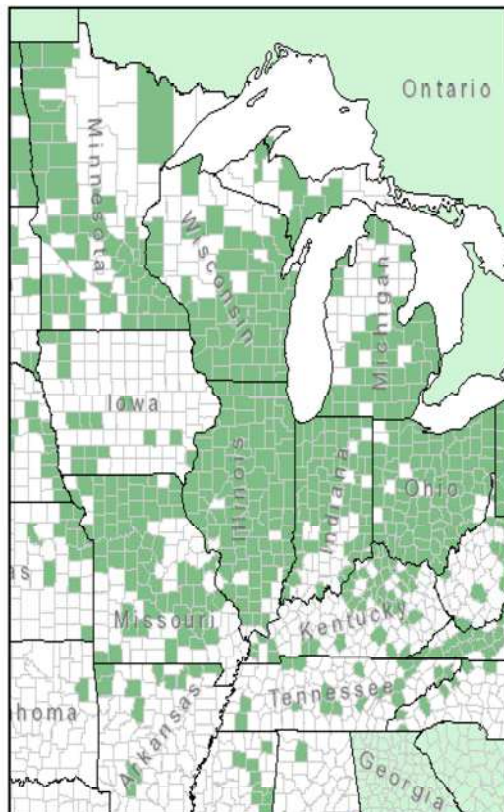


Photo: Steve Eggers ©

Northern Dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*)

Rose Family

Other Common Names: ronce à flagelles

Scientific Name: *Rubus flagellaris* Willd.
 RUFL

Plant Symbol:

Distinguishing characteristics: Stems of 2-kinds – first year “primocanes” lowly arching and trailing across the ground, rooting at the tip and along the stem, persistent through winter, usually with 5-leaflet palmately-compound leaves, and, second year “floricanes”, 3-leaflet palmately-compound leaves which die-back to the ground in winter; flowers 5-parted, white, with 1-6 flowers per inflorescence which are produced on upright stalks arising from the “floricanes”; fruit dark red to black, persistent on the plant; prickles with a broad base, bent backwards, approximately 5-prickers per ½inch.

Plant Height: About 1 ft. tall, but with long, training branches
 May-June

Blooms/Fruits:

Duration: Perennial, woody sub-shrub

Pollinator Value: These flowers provide nectar and pollen in the early spring, and their stems can serve as habitat for tunnel-nesting bees. They are also attractive to butterflies.

Habitat: Upland prairies and open woodland, pastures, pastures, old fields, roadsides, and disturbed areas.

Note: There are many dewberries, blackberries, and raspberries, which all appear similar. Commonly “dewberries” grow across the ground (prostrate) while blackberries and raspberries grow with upright and arching stems.

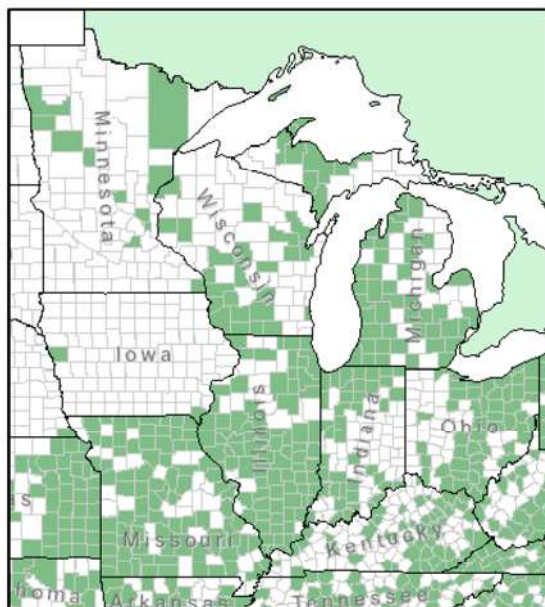


Photo: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers