

Kentucky Garden Flowers

Asters

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Michaelmas Daisy, Starwort, Frost Flower

Flower Color	Height	Season	Pests	Uses	Propagation
violet, white, blue, pink	18"- 60"	summer, late summer, fall	powdery mildew, verticillium wilt	border, cut flower, wild flower gardens	cuttings, division

Performance - Asters produce small daisy flowers in summer or fall and are reliable perennials in Kentucky gardens. They should be considered if one wishes to have a colorful garden in the fall. They are not commonly used because some types grow like the native asters that may appear weedy in the fall. Asters may spread aggressively with rhizomes or seed in the garden and may require staking, depending on the type chosen. Asters should be grown in full sun locations and will tolerate most soil conditions.

Comments - Division needs to be done every three years to avoid verticillium wilt. When the plant gets over crowded the disease is more prevalent.

Aster apellus- The cultivar 'Triumph' was grown in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2003 but performance was unsuitable for recommendation.

Aster amellus - **Italian Aster** - violet-purple flowers in the fall.



Aster azureus - Sept. 2



Aster laevis 'Bluebird' – Oct. 2

***Aster azureus* - Sky Blue Aster** – This Kentucky native has demonstrated satisfactory performance in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2003 to 2006. This aster is small and well suited to a typical home landscape.

***Aster x frikartii* - Frikart's Aster** - Frikart's aster performs well in Kentucky and blooms summer through fall with blue to lavender flowers. Plants may require staking and prefer well-drained soil. Frikart's aster is marginally hardy so give some winter protection if the winter is extremely cold and there is no snow cover. The cultivars 'Wonder of Staffa', 'Monch', 'Floral Delight' are available. 'Monch' was grown successfully in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2003 when it died during the winter.

***Aster laevis* – Smooth Aster** – 'Bluebird' had excellent performance in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2006.

***Aster latiflorus* – Calico Aster** – 'Prince' is quite unique with its small purple flowers but performance was unsuitable for recommendation based on trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2003.



Aster latiflorus 'Prince'



Aster novi-belgii 'Woods Purple'

***Aster novae-angliae* – New England Aster** – An aster that is native to Kentucky; consider 'Alma Potschke', 'Purple Dome', 'September Ruby' or other cultivars for your garden.

***Aster novi-belgii* - Michaelmas Daisy, New York Aster** - New York aster is native to Kentucky and is relatively common in open fields. In the garden fertilize sparingly and divide every other year. Taller types require staking. There are over 300 cultivars available. 'White Swan' and 'Woods Purple' had satisfactory performance in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2005 but 'Celeste', 'Purple Monarch', 'Snow Cushion' and 'Winston Churchill' had unacceptable performance from 2001 to 2003. Consider other cultivars 'Ada Ballard', 'Alert', 'Bonningdale White', 'Professor Kippenberg' and 'White Lady' for your garden.

Aster oblongifolius – This aster is native to Kentucky and has performed well in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2003 to 2006. The selection 'Raydon's Favorite' has been one of the best plants for flowering in late September and October in the trials from 2002 to 2006.

***Aster simplex* – Panicked Aster** – This aster, native to Kentucky, has performed well in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2003 to 2006.



Aster oblongifolius 'Raydon's Favorite' - Oct. 10



Aster simplex – Sept. 2

Aster tongolensis – **East Indies Aster** – The cultivar 'Wartburg Star' had unsatisfactory performance in UK trials from 2003 to 2004.

Related genera –

Boltonia asteroides – **Star Flower** – The white-flowered variety, 'Snowbank', has performed well in UK trials, while the pink-flowered form, 'Pink Beauty', has been less successful.

Kalimeris pinnatifida – **Star Aster** – This small white-flowered "aster" flowered all summer on moderately long stems suitable for cut flower use. Star aster has had excellent performance in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2001 to 2006. A variegated cultivar, 'Variegata', did not flower much in summer, but produced some flowers in fall. This plant spreads by rhizomes and fills in garden areas quite nicely.



Kalimeris pinnatifida – July 16



Kalimeris pinnatifida 'Variegata'

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