



***Aster ericoides* – Heath Aster**

COMMON NAME: Heath aster

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aster ericoides* – the name comes from the Greek word *aster* for “star” because of the resemblance of a flower head to a star and *erica* meaning “heath”.

FLOWER: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late August through September

SIZE: 2 to 3 feet high

BEHAVIOR: Bushy with densely clustered daisy like flowers. The stems are much branched at the top. Heath aster spreads by rhizomes, forming loose colonies.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: This aster grows best on dry, sandy or gravelly soils in full sun. It has a low water requirement.

NATURAL RANGE: Maine to British Columbia, south to Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas and Arizona. It is found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Heath asters add a delicate texture to late summer prairie areas. The seeds are enjoyed by juncos and other winter birds. Attracts butterflies and native bees.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well during the first season. Use only in full sun. To propagate divide mature plants in late fall or early spring.

COMPANION PLANTS: Big bluestem, smooth aster, coreopsis, flowering spurge, showy sunflower, purple prairie clover, prairie cinquefoil, yellow coneflower, rosinweed, compass plant, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, and needle grass.