



***Aster macrophyllus* – Large-leafed Aster**

COMMON NAME: Large-leafed Aster, Big Leaf Aster

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aster macrophyllus* - the scientific name comes from three Greek words: *aster* for star, *macro* for large, *phyllus* for leaf.

FLOWER: pale purple, blue, white

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to October. Generally the latest blooming flower in the North Country.

SIZE: 1 to 3 ½ feet

BEHAVIOR: This aster spreads by rhizomes and can form large colonies of large, low leaves.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry to medium soil in partial to full shade. It is drought tolerant and can thrive in shady loam and clay soils with good organic matter.

NATURAL RANGE: From Quebec to Manitoba, south to Georgia, west to Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. In Wisconsin it is most common in the north.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The basal leaves are thick, heart-shaped and 6 to 8 inches in size. The garden value is in the foliage, not the flowers, as this makes a good ground cover in shady spots that are hard to landscape. It can also help to stabilize slopes and attracts butterflies.

SUGGESTED CARE: Relatively easily grown in a woodland garden if provided with a loose soil high in organic matter. Do not overwater.

COMPANION PLANTS: Red Baneberry, Hepatica, Nodding Trillium, Twinleaf, Yellow Violet and other spring ephemerals.