

***Aster Laevis* Aster¹**

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Introduction

Aster laevis is a sturdy branching perennial that reaches a height of 6 to 18 inches. The grey-silver leaves of Smooth Aster have a fine texture, and light blue daisy-like flowers appear on the plant in the late spring, summer, and fall. The Smooth Aster is not especially showy but has been proven to be reliable.

General Information

Scientific name: *Aster laevis*

Pronunciation: ASS-ter LEE-viss

Common name(s): Aster

Family: *Compositaceae*

Plant type: herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 4B through 9A (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: mass planting; edging; attracts butterflies; cut flowers

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 4 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: symmetrical habit with a regular (or smooth) outline and individuals having more or less identical forms

Growth rate: fast

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

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Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

The flowers of Smooth Aster can be cut for flower arrangements, as they last several days indoors. The plant performs well as an edging in the landscape or in a group planting. It makes a nice component in a mixed border.

This perennial requires full sun and a well-drained soil. *Aster laevis* is drought tolerant.

Smooth Aster is propagated by softwood cuttings or by division.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.