

# Aster spp. Aster<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Asters produce large clusters of flowers in white, purple, lavender, pink, and red. The plants tolerate poor soil and dryness but bloom poorly in dry soil. They grow two to five feet tall and are spaced 15 inches apart. They multiply rapidly so may need frequent division. Tall varieties need staking or grow the shorter varieties. For best bloom, thin out shoots from large clumps. Asters grow best in full sun or light shade.



Figure 1. Full form - Aster spp.: Aster  
Credits: Edward Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Flower - Aster spp.: Aster  
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## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Aster* spp.

**Pronunciation:** ASS-ter species

**Common name(s):** aster

**Family:** *Asteraceae*

**Plant type:** herbaceous

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4B through 9A (Figure 3)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

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

## Use and Management

Aster is grown from seed or division. Division is done in October or early spring when flowering deteriorates. The seed germinates in 15 days indoors or 20 to 30 days outdoors.

## Pests and Diseases

Aphids feed on lower leaf surfaces and flower stems.

Japanese beetles feed on aster.

Leaf spot fungi cause spots of various types on the leaves. The spotting may be worse in rainy seasons.

Downy mildew causes a downy mold on the lower leaf surfaces but is not important on aster.

Powdery mildew develops on the lower parts of crowded plants in late season. Symptoms are a whitish coating on the leaves.

Bacterial crown gall causes the formation of rough, rounded galls. Avoid infested soil and destroy infected plants.

Verticillium wilt occasionally kills plants.