

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Aster lateriflorus

## Calico Aster



A distinctive aster, with a strongly horizontal branching habit, and small, white (rarely pinkish or lilac) flowers along the upper sides of the branches. The center of each flower is yellow at first, then turns purplish as it ages; the common name, calico aster, refers to the lacy, dappled effect that this produces. There are some very pretty selections available commercially; some of them have beautiful dark-red stems and foliage. Very adaptable as to site. Often found in light shade.

**Suggested companions:** smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), bottle-brush grass (*Hystrix patula*), Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,  
by Robert W. Freckmann

Plant Type: Wildflower

Size: 2-4' H  
W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Rich Moist  
Very Damp/Wet

Flower Color:  
White

Bloom Time:  
August  
September  
October

Other Attributes:

Fall color  
Deer resistant  
Butterfly attracting

Habitat:

Open field/ Prairie  
Woodland Margin  
Forested Wetland  
Floodplains  
Riverbanks

Exposure: filtered  
shade

Plant in:

Groundcover: No