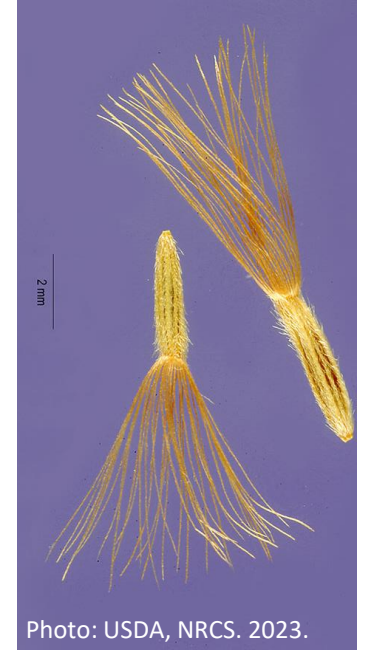


Late Purple Aster – *Symphotrichum patens*



Late Purple Aster – *Symphyotrichum patens*

Habitat Notes:

Dry-mesic to dry upland forests, woodlands, barrens, clearings, and road banks; tolerates a range of soil chemistries.

Species Identification:

- Ray florets blue to violet or purple; disk florets yellow to purple or red.
- Height 1-4 feet
- Stems loosely hairy or canescent, scabrous.
- Leaves 2-15 x 0.7-4.5cm, cauline, ovate to oblong or lanceolate to oblanceolate, auriculate-clasping at base and almost meeting around the stem, ciliate to scabrous especially on the margins; petioles lacking.
- Phyllaries 3 to 4 series; imbricate, firm, oblanceolate or oblong, scarious, with green and spreading tips
- Cypselae 2.8-3.3mm, oblanceolate to ellipsoid, ribbed, pubescent, tan.

Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun to partial shade (6+ hours of direct sunlight)
- Sandy, shallow rocky soil
- Good drainage, moist, occasionally dry

Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: Attracts a variety of pollinator species and is bountiful food source for many species.

Growing Protocol:

- Seed stratification: C(60)
 - 60 day cold moist stratification. Keep at temperature range of 33-38 degrees for duration of stratification.
 - Add water to stratification media periodically to ensure seeds do not dry out.

Collection Information:

- Fluffy seeds. Tugging the pappus can aid in knowing when to harvest. If the stem is still green and the seeds refuse to release with the pappus, its too early.
- Collect when stem is dark and pappus full and easy to pull.
- Shaking stem in bag can be an efficient way to collect many seeds.

Pests & Disease:

- No serious insect or disease problems. Asters can be susceptible to powdery mildew and aster wilt. Poor soil drainage and lack air circulation can contribute to these.