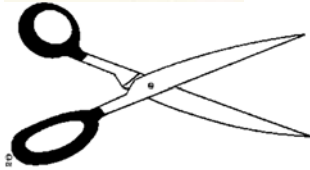


Bluebird Aster



Aster laevis 'Bluebird'

**Attracts butterflies,
is beautiful if used
as a cut flower and
is drought tolerant.**

- **Use:** Covers itself with a profusion of violet-blue flowers that bloom in late summer through fall. It is a highly-rated wildflower that attracts all types of native bees and butterflies including migrating Monarchs. Introduced by Dr. Richard Lightly of the Mt. Cuba Center botanical gardens where it was rated as the #1 performing Aster in their garden evaluation of the genus
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers full sun. Use slow release or water soluble fertilizer in late spring. Water under leaves and flowers for best results. Average water needs, but drought tolerant once established.
- **Growth:** This compact type grows 3-4' tall and 2-3' wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-8; Perennial. Mulch around plant in the winter. Make sure they have well drained soil in the winter.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Attractive blue-green foliage provides garden interest prior to the showy flowers. Pinch back and divide like mums for best display. General rule of thumb is to pinch until summer solstice 6/21 and not after. Pinching yields better branching and more flowers.
- **Flower:** Densely packed clusters of lovely violet-blue flowers provide outstanding color in the garden from late summer into fall. Great as cutflowers.

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