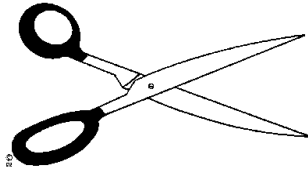


Avondale Blue Wood Aster



Symphotrichum cordifolium (*Aster cordifolius* 'Avondale')

- **Use:** A woodland edge native with blue-purple to off white daisy-like flowers with yellow centers. They have an upright and branched form in cultivation, growing up to 3 feet tall. There is quite a bit of variability in form and leaf shape, especially if other Aster spp. are nearby, but in general, their lower leaves are heart-shaped, or cordate, with upper leaves being ovate.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Can be found throughout the northern United States in upland meadows and forests. It thrives in part sun to part shade but it can take a wide range of conditions, clay soil, from dry to moist soils (but no standing water). For best flowering in the fall, ensure the plant receives at least 3 hours of sunlight each day.
- **Growth:** This compact type grows 2-3' tall and 18-24" wide. Plant spreads by seed and rhizomously in a vigorous manner making them an excellent plant en masse.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-8 Perennial. Mulch around plant in the winter. Make sure they have well drained soil in the winter.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Its green (powdery mildew resistant) leaves are forage for many wild animals including wild turkey and Ruffed Grouse.
- **Flower:** In late summer-fall small, daisy-like pale blue flowers with cheerful yellow centers completely envelop the plant. A valuable habitat for Lepidoptera larva and is a nectar sources for bees, wasps, and butterflies.



Attracts butterflies, is beautiful if used as a cut flower and is drought tolerant. A great naturalizer at the edge of woods or as a filler among Hostas and Astilbes – covering up their late season deterioration with thick blooms and sweeps of greens. The fibrous root systems are effective erosion control on hillsides in shade.

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