

# New England Aster

New England Asters grow well in a variety of conditions. They are a native perennial that provide nectar for pollinators in the late summer through the fall. They tend to grow on roadsides with Goldenrod, making for a beautiful fall display.

Type: Perennial

Height: 60-90 cm (24-36")

Exposure: Full sun

Difficulty: Easy



## Growing

Cold stratification is the process of breaking seed dormancy through chilling. To artificially cold stratify seeds, place them on a damp paper towel in a sealed bag in the refrigerator for 3-4 weeks before sowing directly outside or starting indoors. To provide natural stratification, plant seeds outside in the fall for next season's blooms.

Sow seeds shallowly at only 3mm (1/8") deep. Seeds should sprout in 2-4 weeks. Keep seedlings moist but not wet. Transplant outside after a hardening off period. Space plants at 30-90cm (12-36") apart.

## Saving

Wait for the flowers to fade and dry. The flower head should be dry and fluffy seeds will start to loosen from it. Cut the flower heads from the plant a few inches down the stem so as not to damage the seeds. Place seed stalks in a paper bag and shake to free the fluffy seeds from the stalk. Put the seeds into a dated and labelled envelope and return to Brock!