

Large-leaved aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)

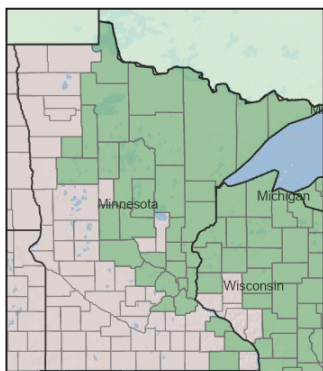
Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

DESCRIPTION: Easily identified by the size of the basal leaves for which it is named, large-leaved aster is a common perennial of woodlands and forests across the northeastern two-thirds of Minnesota. The plant, which blooms from August to October, favors mesic to dry soils.

USES: A great late-season pollinator plant, large-leaved aster serves as the larval host for the pearl crescent butterfly. Ojibwe people used its fleshy leaves and roots as a food source and for medicinal purposes; they also used its smoldering leaves to attract deer.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)
[U.S. Forest Service - Fire Effects Information System](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



Photo Credit: Ryan Rothstein

Planting Recommendations

Large-leaved aster thrives in partial to full shade and prefers well-drained, upland soils. It does not tolerate saturated conditions. Large-leaved aster can spread aggressively from rhizomes, so it's best planted in an existing garden. The seeds, which mature in about October, can be easily hand-harvested. Starting from seed requires a cold-moist stratification period

of 60 days. This can be accomplished by sowing in late fall or winter and letting nature do the work. Large-leaved aster pairs well with native shade garden plants such as early meadow-rue, Clayton's sweet cicely, zigzag goldenrod, bloodroot, wild ginger, wild geranium, Pennsylvania sedge, nodding fescue, silky wild rye and bottlebrush grass.

Developed by Ryan Rothstein, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources habitat restoration coordinator



STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR

STATUS: GP: FACU
MW: FACU
NCNE: UPL

ID: Deeply veined, coarsely toothed, heart-shaped basal leaves grow up to 8 inches long and 8 inches wide. Alternate leaves decrease in size along the stem. Basal leaves are usually withered and may not be visible on flowering plants. Flowers appear in branching clusters of eight to 90 stalked heads. Individual flowers grow a half inch to 1 ½ inches wide, with nine to 20 lavender petals spaced irregularly around a small yellow center disk.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Though large-leaved aster's flowers can resemble those of other woodland asters, the sizable basal leaves are a telltale indicator. White wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*) has smaller basal leaves; its pure white flowers typically consist of five to 10 petals.