Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
New England Aster

Daisy-like asters bloom profusely late summer to early fall. Native to more northern parts of the Mid-Atlantic Region* and mountains of Virginia, in NoVA they may have spread from cultivation where they are often used in wild gardens and roadside plantings. For smaller gardens, the dwarf cultivar ‘Purple Dome’ has a low, bushy habit that does not require staking and produces abundant bright, royal purple flowers.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perennial Species Plant, ‘Purple Dome’ Flowers**</th>
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<tr>
<td>Height: 1–6 feet ('Purple Dome’ 1½–2 feet)</td>
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<td>Spread: 2–3 feet</td>
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<td>Bloom Color: Purple, pink-purple, lavender, blue</td>
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**Flowers provide important late season nectar for pollinators like the bumble bee pictured.

Characteristics
Clumping, stout, leafy perennial with a robust upright habit
Rough, hairy, lance-shaped, clasping leaves
Showy purple rayed flowers with yellow centers bloom on branch tips from August to October
Stiff hairy stems

Attributes
Tolerates clay soil, drier soil, and seasonal floods; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom to occasionally severely damage

Ethnobotanic uses
Attracts bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects; larval host for Pearl Crescent butterfly

Growing and Maintenance Tips
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade
Water Requirements: Moist
Pinch back to reduce height in June and July to produce more flowers and reduce need for staking
Good air circulation reduces foliar problems
Prune to ground after flowering if foliage is unattractive and to prevent seeding
Use in borders, butterfly, meadow or rain gardens
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–8

Excellent Replacement for
Centaurea cyanus - Bachelor’s Button (annual)
Chrysanthemum - Mums (marginally hardy)
Dahlia
Dendranthema - Hardy Garden Mums

*It is native in DC; common throughout DE; and scattered throughout PA. In VA, it is infrequent to locally common in the mountains; infrequent in the Piedmont and rare in the Coastal Plain.

**Flowers provide important late season nectar for pollinators like the bumble bee pictured.

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Images by Elaine Mills (top), Glencarlyn Garden and by Mary Free (bottom), Sunny Garden