



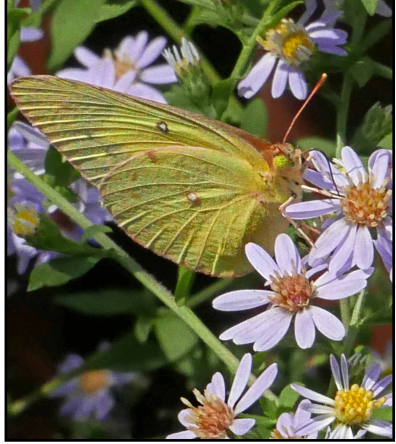
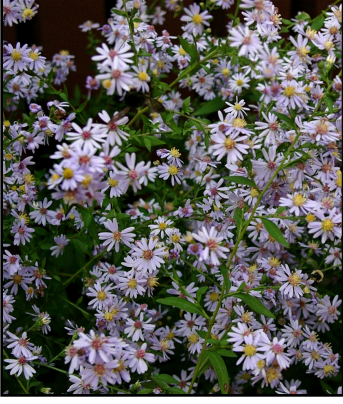

# Symphotrichum cordifolium

## Blue Wood or Heart-leaved Aster

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

Formerly classified as *Aster cordifolius*, this native, found along forest edges and ledges in the eastern half of North America,\* would be a welcome addition in a residential shade garden. When summer flowers are fading through mid fall, the delicate blue flowers of this prolific bloomer attract numerous pollinators.



Perennial	Foliage, Flowers w/ Pollinators,** En Masse, Fruit
Height: 3–5 feet	    
Spread: 2–3 feet	
Bloom Color: Blue-violet to lavender	
Characteristics	
Many branched, upright, herbaceous <a href="#">perennial</a>	
<a href="#">Alternate</a> , heart-shaped and toothed lower leaves and narrow, smaller, <a href="#">ovate</a> upper leaves	
½-inch, composite flowers of 7–15 <a href="#">ray</a> and <a href="#">disk florets</a> each (the latter of which mature from yellow to purple-red) bloom in terminal <a href="#">panicles</a> August to October, followed by <a href="#">glabrous cypsela</a>	
Light-green to reddish brown branched <a href="#">stems</a>	
Spreads by <a href="#">rhizome</a> and self-seeding	
Attributes	
Tolerates <a href="#">clay</a> , drought; sensitive to poor air circulation, waterlogging; no serious pests or diseases	
<a href="#">Deer</a> occasionally to frequently severely damage	
<a href="#">Ethnobotanic</a> uses	
Attracts bees & other beneficial insects to the flowers; leafcutter bees, small mammals & deer to the foliage; <a href="#">larval</a> host to ~12 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a>	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Moist, rich, well-drained	<i>Anemone hupehensis</i> , <i>Anemone x hybrida</i> , <i>Anemone tomentosa</i> - Japanese Anemones <i>Anemone vitifolia</i> - Grape-leaved Anemone
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Partial Shade, Shade	
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Dry, Moist	<i>Dendranthema</i> - Hardy Garden Mums
Plant height (and need to stake) can be reduced by cutting back stems before mid-July	<p>*It is <a href="#">native</a> in DC. In DE, it is uncommon in the Piedmont and rare in the Coastal Plain. It is scattered in MD and present in PA, mostly clustered in its southeastern counties. In VA, it is common in the mountains, frequent in the Piedmont, and infrequent to rare in the Coastal Plain.</p> <p>** Common eastern bumble bee and orange sulphur butterfly.</p>
Cut stems after flowering to control self-seeding	
Use in butterfly and woodland gardens	
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 3a–8b	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden and private garden, Arlington, VA



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