



FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	New England aster
Botanical Name:	Aster nova-angliae
Family:	Asteraceae
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Perennial Flower
Season of Bloom:	Early to late autumn

The New England aster is one of the showiest of fall flowering perennials. This native of eastern and central North America shines along roadsides and in meadows from early autumn through frost in hues of pink and purple. Hundreds of cultivars have been developed for garden use, with shorter varieties of less than 3 ½ feet readily available and in a wider range of colors.

Traditionally, the New England aster is used at the back of the perennial border where its long stalk is masked by shorter plants. Staking is often necessary as heights range from 3 to 6 feet. Pinch the stems to create a shorter, bushier plant that is less prone to toppling over.

Asters enjoy full sun or partial shade and well drained soil. A versatile and easy to grow plant, include it in your formal, naturalized, or wildflower garden.



The King's Garden planting plan places this aster's cousin, the New York aster, plus the Italian aster (*A. amellus*) and the Rhone aster (*A. acris*), among late spring and summer-flowering plants such as peony, clematis, rue and gladiola. The New England aster is a substitute in this case as the search for appropriate varieties of the others has proven difficult. The effect is the same, however, as tufts of color rise above the faded foliage of its neighbors.