



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

DRY SITE ASTER CARE

LIGHT

Aromatic, smooth and skyblue asters prefer full sun and an open planting site. Their late-season flowers suit sunny borders, meadows and pollinator gardens. Aromatic asters form broad mounds; smooth and skyblue types can be more upright. Follow the species or cultivar label for spacing.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and during establishment. Once rooted, these asters tolerate drier conditions than many garden asters. Give a deep soak during prolonged drought, allowing the soil to drain between waterings. Containers need closer checking. Avoid keeping roots continually wet.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use average, well-drained soil and plant at nursery depth. These species adapt to several soil textures, including rocky or lean sites, provided drainage is suitable. Keep heavy mulch off the crown and leave room for mature stems and spreading roots.

FEEDING

Feed lightly only if needed, following the fertilizer label. Rich, repeated feeding can produce soft or sprawling growth. In ordinary garden soil, additional fertilizer may be unnecessary. Check light and drainage before assuming that a weak clump needs more nutrients.

SEASONAL CARE

Support taller stems early if needed. Pinching in late spring can encourage bushier growth, but avoid trimming developing flower buds later. Leave some seed heads for wildlife. Tidy dead growth in spring, retaining sections of sound hollow stems where practical for nesting insects.

HELPFUL TIPS

Aromatic asters can spread into broad patches, and smooth asters may self-seed readily. Remove unwanted growth and divide crowded clumps when needed. October Skies, Raydon's Favorite and Blue Bird belong here. Watch for mildew and provide good airflow. Swamp and woodland asters have different care guides.