



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

WOODLAND ASTER CARE

LIGHT

White wood, bigleaf, blue wood and suitable woodland hybrids grow well in partial shade. Calico aster also accepts sun where moisture is reliable. Avoid dense competition from shrubs or groundcovers. Give taller selections enough space to carry their late-season flower sprays without leaning over smaller plants.

WATER

Water new plants deeply until established. Maintain moderate moisture during extended drought, especially for bigleaf and calico asters. White wood and blue wood asters tolerate some drying once rooted. Shade does not eliminate watering needs beneath thirsty tree roots. Avoid waterlogged soil.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in humus-rich, well-drained soil. Keep mulch clear of the crown and allow room for rhizomes and seedlings. These plants suit woodland edges and informal colonies, but some can spread beyond a small border. Check the label for mature width.

FEEDING

Use compost or a modest spring feeding only where needed, following label directions. Repeated rich feeding can encourage excessive growth. In a suitable woodland bed, conserving moisture and limiting competition are usually more useful than frequent fertilizer applications.

SEASONAL CARE

Retain healthy foliage and leave selected seed heads for wildlife. Tidy dead stems in spring. Pinch tall growing stems in late spring if a shorter plant is desired, avoiding later flower buds. Divide crowded colonies in spring and lift unwanted rooted shoots.

HELPFUL TIPS

Bigleaf aster may form large leafy colonies with comparatively sparse flowers; that is part of its character. Remove unwanted seedlings and monitor spreading edges. Watch for mildew, leaf spots and slugs. This guide includes Twilight and Lady in Black, with moisture adjusted as described above.