



## Aster Planting Guide

### About Asters

Asters offer gorgeous blooms, showcased best in garden beds, in containers on your deck or patio, and freshly cut and added to bouquets! Cultivar colors include shades of white to pink, red, blue, violet, purple, and yellow. Some varieties resemble chrysanthemums, while others have classic daisy-like blossoms.

### When to Plant

Start seeds indoors 4-6 weeks before the last frost or direct sow into your garden just after the last frost.

### Where to Plant

Asters prefer full sun or partial shade. Their ideal climate has cool, moist summers so, in warmer climates avoid areas with too much hot mid-day sun. Be sure to use rich, evenly moist, and well-draining soil. The flowers thrive in beds, borders, cutting gardens, containers, and cottage gardens.

### How to Plant

Sow seeds 1/8" deep and place them in a sunny spot in your home if starting indoors. Transplant seedlings after the last frost has passed, spacing your seedlings 6-8" apart. Water generously and add mulch to keep soil cool and prevent weeds.

### Caring for Asters

Add compost to mulch to encourage growth. Asters require about 1" of water per week, but some varieties can be sensitive- keep an eye out for stressed plants and try different watering methods if necessary. Stake tall aster varieties to keep them from falling over. Pinch back asters once or twice in the early summer to promote bushier growth and more blooms. Divide every 2-3 years in the spring to maintain flower quality. Don't be surprised if your aster plant "returns" in following years with different color blooms; a plant left to mature fully may reseed itself and the resulting asters may not bloom true.