

# How to Grow Aster



☎ 888 246 5233  
Todd's Seeds, 46495,  
Humboldt Dr. Novi, Mi 48377

## About Aster

Aster thrives in areas with cool, moist summers. It produces blue, white, or pink flowers in the late summer or fall. Plant height ranges from 8 inches to 8 feet, depending on variety. Tall varieties make good back-of-the-border plants and are also attractive planted in naturalized meadows. Aster is susceptible to powdery mildew and rust diseases, so choose disease-resistant varieties.

- **Botanical name:** Aster
- **Plant type:** Flower
- **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- **Sun exposure:** Full Sun, Part Sun
- **Soil type:** Loamy
- **Soil pH:** Varies
- **Flower color:** Red, Pink, Purple, White
- **Bloom time:** Summer, Fall.





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## Planting

- ▶ Asters prefer climates with cool, moist summers, especially cool night temperatures.
- ▶ Select a site with full sun to partial sun.
- ▶ Soil should be moist, well-drained, and average to humus-rich.
- ▶ Plant asters in early- to mid-spring. Fertilize soil prior to planting.
- ▶ Set seeds one inch deep.
- ▶ Space asters 1 to 3 feet apart, depending on the type.
- ▶ Water plants in well. Add mulch after planting to keep soil cool and prevent weeds. If you're replanting shoots, use vigorous, young shoots to ensure best growth.

## Care

- ▶ Add a thin layer of compost with a 2-inch layer of mulch around the plants every spring.
- ▶ If you receive less than 1 inch of rain a week, remember to water your plants regularly during the summer. However, many asters are moisture-sensitive; if your plants have too much moisture or too little moisture, they will often lose their lower foliage or not flower well. Keep an eye out for any stressed plants and try a different watering method if your plants are losing flowers.





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- ▶ Stake the tall varieties in order to keep them upright and remember to pinch the young shoots to encourage bushiness.
- ▶ Cut asters back in winter after the foliage has died.
- ▶ Divide every 2 to 3 years in the spring to maintain your plant's vigor and flower quality.

### Pests

- ▶ Susceptible to powdery mildew, rusts, white smut, leaf spots, stem cankers, aphids, tarsonemid mites, slugs, snails, and nematodes.



### Wit & Wisdom

- ▶ Asters, September's flowers, were once burned to ward off serpents.

