

Aster laterifloris var. horizontalis

Horizontal Calico Aster

Aster laterifloris var. horizontalis (Horizontal Calico Aster) is a compact, billowing aster (1-2' tall and wide) with small, narrow leaves and wide-spreading branched sprays of tiny, white, daisy-like flowers ($\frac{3}{8}$ " wide) with reddish-pink centers. In early spring, leaves and stems have a reddish-green, almost copper tint. When in flower from August to October, this bushy plant has a snow-covered appearance, with a hint of rose pink. Plant Horizontal Calico Aster in well-drained, dry to moist soil in full sun or light shade. These plants are drought tolerant and attract a variety of pollinators while in bloom, followed by songbirds that eat the seeds in late fall and winter. In trial garden tests at the Chicago Botanic Garden, this plant was rated "excellent" in mildew and rust resistance. Limited nursery availability.

Botanical Name: Aster laterifloris var. horizontalis (aka Symphyotrichum lateriflorum var. horizontale)

Common Name: Horizontal Calico Aster

Family: Asteraceae

Nativity: US native

USDA Zone: 4 to 8

Light Type: Full sun to light shade

Soil Type: Clay, loam, sand

Soil Preferences: Well-drained

Soil Moisture: Moist, Dry

Typical height (ft): 1-2'

Typical width (ft): 1-2'

Foliage: dark green

Bloom Time: August, September, October

Bloom: White with rose centers

Ecological features: Bee, bird, butterfly

Tolerance of: Drought

Additional notes: larval host for Pearl Crescent and Checkerspot Butterflies

Companion plants: Coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.), Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*), Sweet Coneflower (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*), and shorter Switchgrass varieties such as 'Rotstrahlbush' (*Panicum virgatum* 'Rotstrahlbush')

For more information see:

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-var-horizontale>

<http://www.oakleafgardening.com/plants/aster-lateriflorus-var-horizontalis/>

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/downloads/planteval_notes/no36_asters.pdf

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/340698/i-Symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-i-var-i-horizontale-i/Details>

Oudolf & Kingsbury, 2013

Images of Aster laterifloris var. horizontalis



1367065.jpg

Branching form



0488354.jpg

Snow-covered appearance



Aster_latiflorus_horizontalis_(SG)_(22116976492).jpg

Billowing clouds of blooms



aster-latiflorus-var-horizontalis-stem1

Abundant tiny leaves and blooms, reddish stems



0620580.jpg

Reddish-green to copper color in early spring

Image choices for narrative:

Aster_latiflorus_horizontalis_(SG)_(22116976492).jpg

Billowing clouds of blooms

1367065.jpg - Branching form