

Aster 'Little Carlow' Little Carlow Aster

Aster 'Little Carlow' (Little Carlow Aster) is a bushy, compact aster with abundant violet-blue daisy-like flowers with yellow centers. The blue flower color, as opposed to the more common purple, sets this apart from other asters. Dark green leaves emerge in the spring, and attractive buds feature prominently as the plant develops. Then in September and October, the bushy mass (1.5-2' tall and wide) provides a reliable late-season blast of color before browning up, leaving behind a branching architectural form and seed heads for winter season appeal. Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full-sun, it is tolerant of a wide range of conditions, including drought. Its compact, spreading form works well in a flower border, or as an edging plant along walkways or paths. An important late-season resource for butterflies, this aster is a more ecologically functional alternative to fall mums. 'Little Carlow' is a hybrid between cultivars of *Aster cordifolius* and *Aster novi-belgii*.

Botanical Name: Aster 'Little Carlow' (aka Aster cordifolium 'Little Carlow')

Common Name: Little Carlow 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 soils

Soil Moisture: Moist, Dry

Typical height (ft): 1.5-2'

Typical width (ft): 1.5-2'

Foliage: Medium Green

Bloom Time: September, October

Bloom: Blue-violet with yellow centers

Ecological features: Important fall pollinator resource; seeds are eaten by small songbirds, juncos, finches, and sparrows.

Tolerance of: Drought, Deer, Heat

Additional notes: Thinning stems in summer promotes better air circulation. Plants may be cut to the ground after flowering.

Companion plants: Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*), Tall Coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*), Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), compact Switchgrass varieties such as 'Cape Breeze' (*Panicum virgatum* 'Cape Breeze')

For more information see:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=254156&isprofile=0&>

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/aster-little-carlow-cordifolium-hybrid>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/340822/i-symphyotrichum-i-little-carlow-i-cordifolium-i-hybrid/Details>

Images of Aster 'Little Carlow'



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delicate, abundant blooms



920b9911abaf501022f74d4b50fea33e.jpg
fall pairing: blue-violet aster & grass forms



P10301351.jpg
lowest band - button seed heads in winter

Image choices for narrative:

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