

Aster Macrophyllus 'Twilight' Twilight Big Leaf Aster

Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight' (Twilight Big Leaf Aster) begins in early spring as robust rosettes of large heart-shaped leaves, each 4-8" wide. This plant makes an attractive, effective groundcover as it will spread slowly by rhizomes. In summer, red-purple stems emerge, adorned with tiny sessile leaves. Stems are topped with branched flower clusters from August to September. The large flower heads (1 ½" across) are composed of a ring of lavender-blue petal-like rays clustered around a yellow central disk. Plants grow from 2.5-3' tall with a 2-3' spread. Twilight Big Leaf Aster performs best in well-drained soils along a woodland edge or savanna-like area with morning sun. Flowers provide an important source of fall pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies. This is the host plant for caterpillars of the Pearl Crescent Butterfly, Silvery Checkerspot Butterfly and several species of moths.

Botanical Name: Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'

Common Name: Twilight Big Leaf Aster

Family: Asteraceae

Nativity: US Native

USDA Zone: 3-9

Light Type: Full Sun to Light Shade

Soil Type: Sand, Loam, Clay

Soil Preferences: well-drained dry to moist soils

Soil Moisture: Dry to Moist

Typical height (ft): 2.5-3'

Typical width (ft): 2-3'

Foliage: Green leaves with purple-red stems

Bloom Time: August, September

Bloom: Lavender, yellow

Ecological features: Attracts bees, butterflies; Erosion control; Small songbirds eat the seed in fall and winter

Tolerance of: Drought, Deer, Heat, Salt

Additional notes: An easy-to-grow perennial ideal for a touch of late summer/autumn colour in the herbaceous border.

Companion plants: Blue-stem Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), Mistflower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*), Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*), Appalachian Sedge (*Carex appalachica*)

For more information see:

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Aster-macrophyllus-Twilight>

<https://www.diggingdog.com/plant/P-1920>

<https://plantlust.com/plants/47878/eurybia-x-herveyi-twilight/>

https://www.rhsplants.co.uk/plants/_eurybia--herveyi/classid.2000020358/

<https://www.farmyardnurseries.co.uk/shop/Aster-macrophyllus-Twilight-M8820>

Images of Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'



Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'_1.jpg
branched flower clusters



Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'_2.jpg
flower clusters on top of red-purple stems



Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'_3.jpg
Early spring form, basal leaves



Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'_4.jpg
with white Aster divaricatus at woodland edge

Image choices for narrative:

Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'_1.jpg branched flower clusters

Aster macrophyllus 'Twilight'_4.jpg with white Aster divaricatus at woodland edge