

Aster Sibiricus



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Taxonomy

- Scientific Name: *Aster Sibiricus*
- Common Names: Siberian Aster or Artic Aster (*var. meritus*)
- Family: Asteraceae



Geographic Distribution

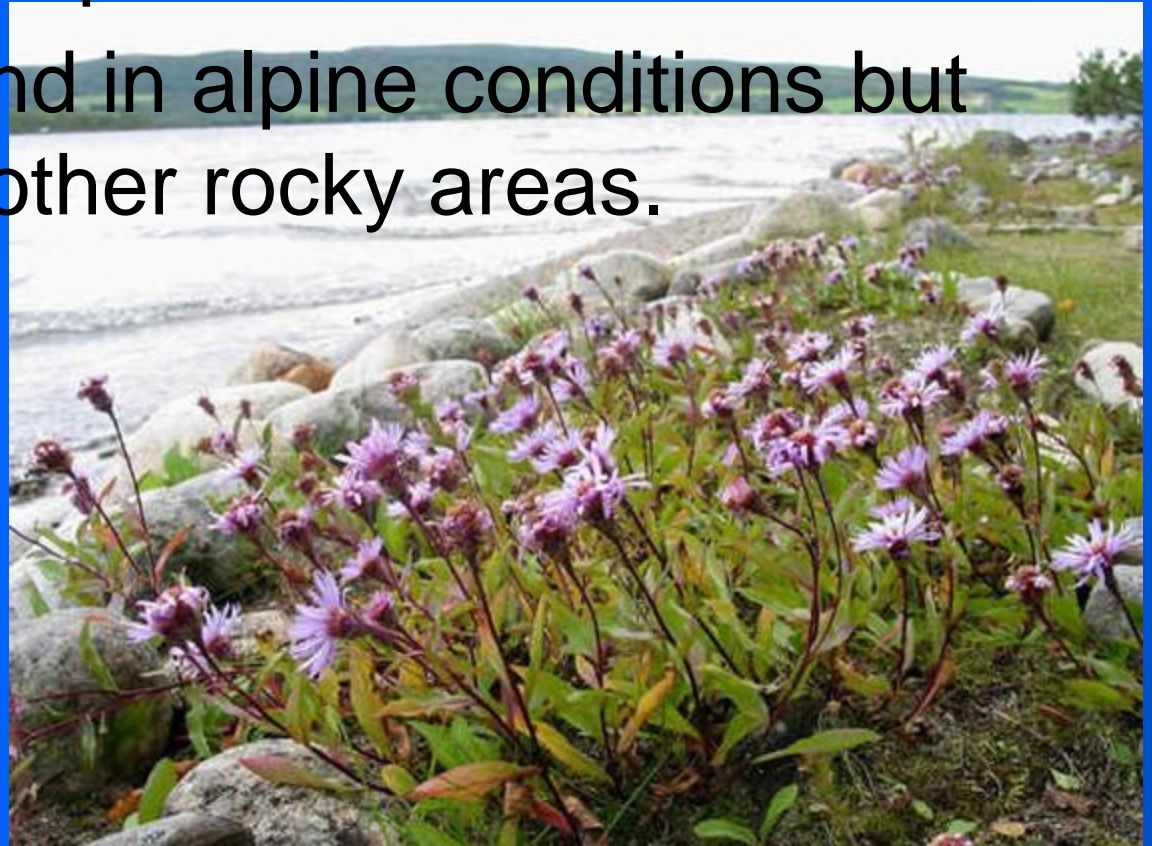


•It is found from Alaska south to Oregon & Idaho. It extends east from Alaska to the Bathurst Inlet and south to Eastern Alberta and Western Montana

•Possibly throughout Northern Europe

Native Habitat

- Gravelly river flats and banks, dry meadows and open woods.
- Generally found in alpine conditions but also found in other rocky areas.



Taxonomic Description

- Herbaceous perennial that is freely branched with a slender creeping or branched rhizome
- Single or Multiple stems up to 12 in (30 cm) tall and glabrate or copiously wooly.
- Leaves are variable although generally lanceolate to oblong. Are sessile or short petioled, usually with serrate margins, ciliate, hairy below and glabrate above.



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Taxonomic Description

- Multiple or single flower heads, have purplish ray flowers and the pappus is a reddish brown to yellowish
- Usually yellow disk florets, the involucre bracts are mostly green with purple margins and white hairs





Foto: Trond Steen

Propagation

- By cuttings was not very effective. Only 2 of the 5 cultivars rooted. Location of cuttings may be important
- May also be possible by seed (May have dormancy), plant division or root cuttings
- Possible day neutral varieties

Market Niche

- Would be excellent early or late season flower in colder climates. Could be a winter flower in milder climates
- Hardy to USDA Plant zone 1 and can survive frosts
- Excellent alternative to mums.
- Can grow in tough spots. Likes rocky and well drained sites
- Little is known about the plant so production can be difficult

Proposed Production Schedule

- Cuttings Take 3-6 weeks to root
- Growing on in 4-8" Pots around 12 weeks to salable plant
 - Can be done in Greenhouse or outdoors
 - Soil pH should be 5.5-6.5
 - Florel or B-nine can be used to control height and flowering
 - Will require 2-3 pinches for a well branched plant

Genetic Improvement

- Needs more research on photoperiod requirements, crop production time, and methods of production
- Breeding can also be directed towards more flower power, larger and/or more flowers, and growth habit



References

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