Asters

Asters are an excellent source of late season color to brighten up your containers or fill a spot in your landscape. Their abundant blossoms in shades of purple, pink, blue and white and a variety of flower forms from miniature to daisy-like attract beautiful butterflies.

Site Preference: For best flower performance, grow Asters in full sun (8 or more hours of direct sunlight).

Soil: Asters do well in most soil conditions. Once established, they can tolerate drought conditions. The addition of **Sphagnum Peat** and **Composted Manure** will assure a healthy planting. These products will help to nurture the plant, hold moisture and aerate the soil.

Watering, Planting, Fertilizing, Winter Care: See instructions included in the *Perennials- General Care* sheet.

Pinching: New and established plants will benefit from pinching resulting in compact, bushy plants with many blooms. Pinch off one-half inch of the tips when shoots are 3-4" tall. As the new shoots develop, you can also pinch those back when they reach 4". For compact, bushy plants continue to pinch until the 4th of July, then allow the plants to grow naturally

Note: Sphagnum Peat and **Composted Manure** are available near the Tree and Shrub cashier's booth. A variety of mulches can be purchased by the bag in the Tree and Shrub department.

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