

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELSBERRY, MISSOURI

And

THE IOWA ECOTYPE PROJECT AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

NATIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION CENTER
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AMES, IOWA

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
AMES, IOWA

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF CENTRAL IOWA GERMPLASM
NEW ENGLAND ASTER
SOURCE IDENTIFIED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Ecotype Project at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), the Native Roadside Vegetation Center (NRVC), the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of New England Aster, *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (L.), for Central Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Central Iowa Germplasm New England aster to document its original collections. Central Iowa Germplasm New England aster is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9068682.

This alternative release procedure is justified because there are no existing commercial sources of New England aster collected from numerous native sites throughout this specific region. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for roadside plantings and prairie restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is high.

Collection Site Information: Collections were taken from native prairie remnants within the three tiers of counties located in central Iowa.

Ecotype Description: New England aster is a perennial dicot in the *Asteraceae* family formerly known as the daisy (composite) family. The stems are 2.5' to 4' tall, unbranched below inflorescence and hairy. The leaves are alternate, sessile with chordate bases, 2" by ½" on the lower stem and gradually decreasing in size above and hairy below. Inflorescence can be little to much branched. Heads rays purple with yellow disk flowers, heads 1' across, fillaries sharp pointed, ¼" long. The fruits (seeds) are 1/16" long, plumes 1/8" long. In fruit the head becomes a hairy ball ½" in diameter. Fruiting begins in late September.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Central Iowa Germplasm New England aster is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Central Iowa Germplasm New England aster did not meet the assessment of a plant, which could become invasive based on guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of Central Iowa Germplasm New England aster include roadside plantings, prairie creations and restorations, landscaping, and for increasing plant diversity in prairie communities.

Potential Area of Adaptation: New England aster occurs mostly on moist prairie biome. Flowering is from late August to late September.

Availability of Plant Materials: G1 material is being produced in limited supply by the Elsberry Plant Materials Center and the University of Northern Iowa. For information contact USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Center, 2803 N. Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri 63343 (573 898-2012) or The University of Northern Iowa, Roadside Office, 113 CEEE, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293 (319 273-3005).

References:

Flora of Missouri; p.1514; Steyermark, J. A; Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA 1968.

A Field Guide to Wildflowers; p. ; Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass, 1968.

An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants, p.37, Christiansen, P. and Muller, M. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA 1999.

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Signatures for release of:

Central Iowa Germplasm New England Aster, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (L.)

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