

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 NORTHERN 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 Northern Iowa counties.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as Northern Iowa Germplasm New England aster to document its original collections. Northern 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 9068681.

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 northern 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:** Northern Iowa Germplasm New England aster is a collection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Northern 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 Northern 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, Native Roadside Vegetation Center, 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*; pp.308, 309, 356, 357; 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.

**Prepared by:**

S.B. Bruckerhoff, USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center, 2803 North Hwy 79, Elsberry, Missouri, 63343.

**Signatures for release of:**

**Northern Iowa Germplasm New England aster, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (L.)**

---

---

Roger A. Hansen  
State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Columbia, Missouri

---

Date

---

Robert Koob  
President  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

---

Date

---

Leroy Brown  
State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Des Moines, Iowa

---

Date

---

Daryl D. Smith  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

---

Date

---

Steve Holland  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
Ames, Iowa

---

Date

---

Robert E. Lawson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Iowa Crop Improvement Association  
Ames, Iowa

---

Date

---

Richard S. White PM - NPL  
For, Director, Ecological Sciences Division  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

---

Date