

Climbing aster

(*Symphotrichum carolinianum*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Climbing aster is a robust vine-like shrub that produces many fragrant daisy-like blooms. Its ray florets vary in color from lavender to pinkish or even bluish; disk florets are yellow to reddish-orange. Its leaves are alternately arranged and elliptical- to lanceolate-shaped with entire margins. Climbing aster is a profuse bloomer.

Climbing aster occurs naturally in floodplain swamps and marshes, in coastal hammocks and wet pine flatwoods, and along riverbanks and lake edges. It typically flowers in late fall and is an excellent nectar source for many butterflies and bees.

Family: Asteraceae (Aster, daisy or composite family)

Native range: Throughout Florida

To see where natural populations of Climbing aster have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 8–11

Soil: Moist to saturated soils

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Growth habit: 10'+

Propagation: Seed

Garden tips: Climbing aster is a showy plant that is adaptable to a variety of conditions. Its sprawling nature can appear messy and it may require effort to keep it under control. It is best for an informal or naturalized landscape. It also works well on a trellis or fence.

Climbing aster is often available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit PlantRealFlorida.org to find a native nursery on your area.



Photo by Mary Keim