Echter's Nursery & Garden Center

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Lady In Black Calico Aster

Lady In Black Calico Aster - New For 2026!
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum 'Lady In Black'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: syn. Aster lateriflorus

Description:

An elegant, mounding perennial with strappy, purplish-black leaves; plant is covered with tiny, red centered white daisies in late summer to early fall; best foliage color in full sun; drought tolerant and adaptable to many soil types

Ornamental Features

Lady In Black Calico Aster is covered in stunning white daisy flowers with shell pink overtones and rose eyes at the ends of the stems from late summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive narrow leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning deep purple in color with hints of black throughout the season. The black stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Lady In Black Calico Aster is a dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Lady In Black Calico Aster is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Lady In Black Calico Aster
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Lady In Black Calico Aster foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Lady In Black Calico Aster foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Lady In Black Calico Aster will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Lady In Black Calico Aster is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.