

Baker County Extension
Alicia R. Lamborn
Environmental Horticulture Agent
1025 West Macclenny Avenue
Macclenny, FL 32063
904-259-3520 email: alamborn@ufl.edu
http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu

Stokes Aster Stokesia laevis

Plant Description:

Stokes aster is a native to the Southeastern United States. It is an evergreen herbaceous perennial and very easy to grow. Numerous shaggy daisy-like flowers are produced on erect stems above the ground hugging foliage. Many cultivars are available with flower colors in various shades of blue, pink, white, and yellow. One cultivar named 'Color Wheel' has flowers that change from white to blue to purple as they mature.

Mature Size: 1-2 feet tall and wide

Growth Rate: Fast

<u>Plant Habit</u>: Mounded basal rosette

Plant Spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Ornamental Characteristics & Uses:

Foliage Color: Dark green

Flower Color: Blue, Pink, White or Yellow

Bloom Time: Spring – Summer

Attracts Wildlife: Butterflies and Bees

Uses: Front of perennial borders



Growing Requirements:

<u>Cold Hardiness Zone(s)</u>: 8 − 11

Exposure: Full or Partial Sun

Water Needs: Low

<u>Soil Tolerances</u>: Prefers sandy soil; high

drought tolerance

Soil pH: Requires acidic soil

Maintenance: Easy



General Care & Growing Tips:

This low-maintenance perennial packs a punch of color to the landscape, especially when planted in masses or in container groupings. Flowers serve as a great source of nectar for butterflies and also attract bees; spent flower heads can be removed as desired. Mature plants form clumps that spread slowly, and clumps can be divided to yield new plants. A general purpose, slow-release fertilizer application in spring should be sufficient for adequate growth through the season. Like most plants, maintaining a 2- to 3- inch layer of organic mulch is beneficial to retain soil moisture and reduce weed competition.

Common Pests:

No insects or diseases are of major concern.

Reference:

Wichman, T., Knox, G., Gilman, E., Sandrock, D., Schutzman, B., Alvarez, E., Schoellhorn, R., and Larson, B. (2006). *Florida-Friendly Plant List*. Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook. University of Florida.

Photo Credits: Alicia Lamborn

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. 2015