

Stokes' Aster

Stokesia laevis

An exceptional flowering perennial for the Florida panhandle is Stokes' aster as it is showy, deer resistant and easy to care for once established. Unlike other perennials, it generally is evergreen in the panhandle so it provides interest all year. It performs best in partially sunny locations with well-drained, acidic soil. Deadheading (pinching off spent flower heads) encourages more flowering. When used as cut flowers Stokes' aster will hold up for about a week after cutting.

Type: herbaceous perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 9

Uses: mass planting; specimen; border; accent; attracts butterflies

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 10 to 24 inches **Spread:** 12 to 18 inches

Plant spacing: 8 to 12 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: no serious insect or disease problems; wet soil in winter is the main cause of death for this plant

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INFORMATION**

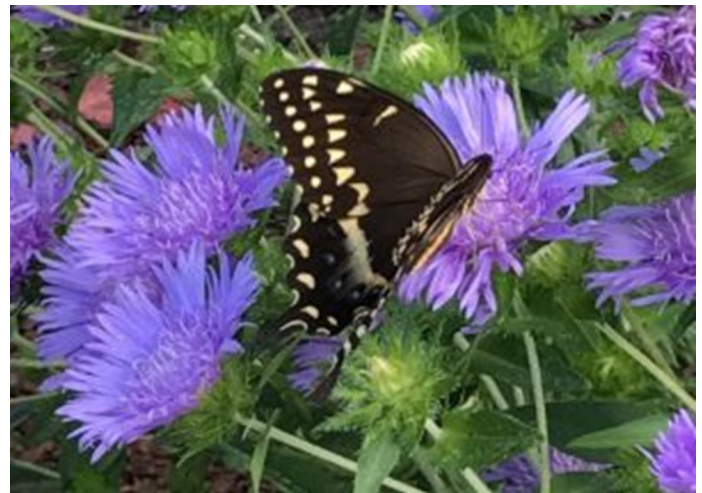


Photo: Mary Salinas, UF/IFAS Extension