

# Yellow Stokes' Aster

## *Stokesia laevis* 'Mary Gregory'

An exceptional flowering perennial for the Florida panhandle is Stokes' aster. It is showy, deer resistant and easy to care for. 'Mary Gregory' has beautiful creamy yellow flowers, similar in color to Coreopsis 'Moonbeam'. Unlike other perennials, it generally is evergreen in the panhandle so it provides interest all year. Stokes' aster is easy to care for once established. 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:** 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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Photo: Debbie Roos, NC State Extension