*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*

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***Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*** ([/ˌsɪmfaɪəˈtrɪkəm ˌlætərʌˈflɔːrəm/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English); formerly *Aster lateriflorus*) is a [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) of flowering plant in the aster [family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(botany)) ([Asteraceae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asteraceae)). Commonly known as **calico aster**, **starved aster**, and **white woodland aster**, it is [native](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_plant) to eastern and central North America. It is a [perennial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perennial_plant) and [herbaceous plant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbaceous_plant) that may reach heights up to 120 centimeters (4 feet) and widths up to 30 cm (1 ft).

The flowers of calico aster are small compared to most *Symphyotrichum* species. They have an average of 7–15 short white [ray florets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_floret), which are rarely tinted pink or purple. The flower centers, composed of [disk florets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disk_floret), begin as cream to yellow and often become pink, purple, or brown as they mature. There are roughly 8–16 disk florets, each with five lobes that strongly reflex (bend backwards) when open. The mostly hairless leaves have a characteristic hairy [midrib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midrib) on their back faces, and branching is usually horizontal or in what can appear to be a [zigzag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zigzag) pattern. [Flower heads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudanthium) grow along one side of the branches and sometimes in clusters at the ends.

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is a conservationally secure species and grows in a variety of habitats. It can be found throughout most of the eastern and east-central United States and Canada. There is also a native population in the state of [Veracruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veracruz), Mexico. Its late-summer and fall appearing flowers are visited by small pollinators and nectar-seeking insects such as sweat bees, miner bees, and hoverflies. As well as occurring naturally in several [varieties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(botany)), *S. lateriflorum* has multiple [cultivars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultivar) and has been grown for at least 250 years in Europe. Some modern-day cultivars are 'Bleke Bet', 'Lady in Black', and 'Prince'. It has been used by [indigenous Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas) as a medicinal plant.



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Description[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=1)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is a clump-forming perennial that grows 20–120 cm (3⁄4–4 ft) tall and up to 30 cm (1 ft) wide.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) Herbaceous and with [alternate leaves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllotaxis),[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1095 it can have a different appearance throughout its lifespan or a season. For example, a mature or returning plant, or one late in the season, may have one or more stiff stems that reach close to maximum height, several arching branches, and multiple clusters of flowers ([inflorescences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflorescence)). An early or first-year plant may have one short and somewhat floppy stem, several large leaves, and end abruptly with one flower head in the center.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNAGenus-6)

**Roots**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=2)]

The roots of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* have short and woody branched [caudices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caudex), and can have short [rhizomes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhizome) that may produce offsets.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) The images of caudices are from dried specimens of *S. lateriflorum* that are stored in the [New York Botanical Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Botanical_Garden) (NYBG) Steere Herbarium.

**Stems**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=3)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* has from one to five stems growing from the root base.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) These stems can be a reddish or purplish color, often with a woody appearance, or a shade of green. Characteristics can depend on the prevalence of sun, with the green stems occurring more likely in the shade.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 172

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Calico_aster_29_September_2020_-_01.jpg)

Close-up of *S. lateriflorum* stem and branch node

Slender and wiry inflorescence-filled branches grow from the stems at almost a right angle or in long arches. Shorter branches may ascend rather than arch.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) Stems and branches can be covered with fine soft hair, but sometimes the amount of hair is reduced farther from the base, mid-stem, or as it goes up the stem. The hair usually grows in vertical lines, particularly on the inflorescence branches.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNAGenus-6)

**Leaves**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=4)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* has alternate and [simple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_leaf) leaves. Characteristics vary among leaves on the same plant and on plants in different environments and areas of the range.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102 Leaves occur at the base, on stems, and on inflorescence branches. The farther away from the base the leaves are, the smaller they become, sometimes markedly so. By the time flowers appear, the leaves at the base and stem have often withered or fallen.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) Leaves have fine, [reticulate veins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reticulate_leaf)[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-12)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Small1903-13): 1225 and [little to no hair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glabrousness_(botany)) except for the key characteristic of hair on the back, or [abaxial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abaxial_(botany)), midrib.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 177 This abaxial midrib hair can sometimes all but disappear as the plant ages within a season.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Abaxial_leaf_showing_pilose_midrib.jpg)

Abaxial leaf on *S. lateriflorum* plant showing hairy midrib and the net-like reticulate veins on the leaf surface

Basal, or bottom, leaves vary in shape from [oblanceolate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oblanceolate), lance-[ovate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovate_(leaf)), ovate, [spatulate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spatulate_(leaf)), to nearly circular. They are thin and the least [lance-shaped](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lanceolate), with a short or no [leafstalk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petiole_(botany)). Basal leaf sizes vary, measuring about 3–35 millimeters[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-14) in length by 7–25 mm in width. The surfaces feel slightly rough to the touch, and the edges are wavy or saw-toothed. Leaves may or may not come to a point at the end depending upon their shape.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_4a.jpg)

Lance-ovate shaped basal leaves on a juvenile *S. lateriflorum* plant

Lower and middle stem leaves have no leafstalk, meaning they are [sessile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sessility_(botany)), or they have a very short leafstalk with [wings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wing_(botany)). The shapes of the stem leaves vary from ovate or [elliptic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elliptic_(leaf_shape)) to elliptic-oblanceolate or lanceolate, rarely [linear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linear_leaf)-lanceolate. Sizes become much smaller the farther they grow from the base. In length, they average 5–10 cm with widths averaging 1–2 cm.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

[Distal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distal) leaves, higher on the stem and on the branches with the flower heads, are also sessile. Their margins are sometimes [entire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entire_leaf), smooth on the edges with no teeth or lobes. Sizes range from 1 cm to 15 cm (6 in) in length and up to 3 cm in width. The more distal, the smaller they are, and this change can occur abruptly.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

**Flowers**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=5)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is a late-summer and fall blooming perennial, the flower heads opening as early as July in some locations and as late as October in others. The flower heads grow in much-branched arrays (called [*panicles*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panicle)), are [racemose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raceme), and generally stay on the upper sides of their stalks, called [*peduncles*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peduncle_(botany)).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102 The flower heads at the ends of the peduncles mature approximately one week before those on the rest of the plant.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_(15179970837).jpg)

Several flower heads of *S. lateriflorum*

Each flower head is about 13 mm diameter when in bloom,[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 102 and is either sessile or with a usually hairy (specifically, [pilose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilose)) peduncle of its own which is less than 10 mm in length.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) At the base of the flower head are from one to seven [bracts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bract) which look like (and technically are) small leaves that grade into the [phyllaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllary).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

**Involucres and phyllaries**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=6)]

On the outsides of the flower heads of all members of the family Asteraceae are small bracts that look like scales. These are called *phyllaries*, and together they form the [involucre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Involucre) that protects the individual flowers in the head before they open.[[c]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-17)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-MorhardtMorhardt2004-18): 29 The involucres of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* are cylinder-bell in shape and usually 4–6 mm in length.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

The phyllaries are [appressed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appressed) or slightly spreading. The shape of the outer phyllaries is oblong-lanceolate or oblong-oblanceolate, and the inner phyllaries are linear.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) They are in 3–4 (sometimes up to 6) unequal rows, meaning they are staggered and do not end at the same point,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) and they may be smooth or have hairs.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 835 The sparsely haired margins of each phyllary may appear white or light green but are translucent or sometimes reddish. The phyllaries have green [chlorophyllous](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/chlorophyllous" \o "wikt:chlorophyllous) zones that are lanceolate, lens-, or diamond-shaped and have green or purplish tips.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 836

**Florets**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=7)]

Each flower head is made up of ray florets and disk florets in about a one to one (1:1) ratio,[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 843 the former developing 3–4 days before the latter.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842 The 7–15[[d]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-20) ray florets grow in one series and are usually white, rarely pinkish or purplish.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNAGenus-6) They average 4–5 mm in length, but can be as short as 3 mm and as long as 8 mm.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gobot-19) They are 0.9–1.2 mm wide.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

The disks have 8–16[[e]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-21) florets[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gobot-19) that start out as cream or light yellow and after opening, may turn pink, then purple or light brown after [pollination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollination).[[f]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-22)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 836 Each disk floret is cylindrical or funnel-shaped, 3–5 mm in depth,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 836 and is made up of 5 petals, collectively a [corolla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petal), which open into 5 lanceolate lobes[[g]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-23) comprising 50–75% of the depth of the floret.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 837 The lobes become strongly [reflexed](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/reflexed) (bent sharply backwards) once open.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

* [](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_25179771.jpg)

Close-up of involucre, phyllaries, and bracts on *S. lateriflorum* flower head

* [](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_25179760.jpg)

Microscopic photo of the involucre of a flower head of *S. lateriflorum* plant showing phyllary detail

* [](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_25179708.jpg)

Microscopic photo of *S. lateriflorum* flower head showing closed and open disk florets

* [](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:INat-51031397_Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_disc_florets_macro.jpg)

*S. lateriflorum* microscopic photo of a single ray floret and two disk florets

**Fruit**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=8)]

*See also:*[*§ Reproduction*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#Reproduction)

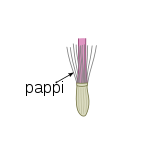
[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Asteraceae_flower_parts_cypsela.svg)

Diagram of cypsela, with pappi labeled

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fruiting_calico_aster.jpg)

Fruiting plant with many cypselae

The fruits (seeds) of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* are not true [achenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achene) but are [cypselae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cypselae), resembling an achene but surrounded by a [calyx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calyx_(botany)) sheath. This is true for all members of the Asteraceae family.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNAAsteraceae-24) After pollination, they mature in 3–4 weeks[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842 and become gray or tan with an oblong-obovoid shape, 1.3–2.2 mm in length with 3–5 nerves, and with a few stiff, slender bristles on their surface ([strigillose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strigillose" \o "Strigillose)). They also have tufts of hairs ([pappi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pappus_(botany))) which are white to pinkish in color and 3–4 mm in length.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

**Chromosomes**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=9)]

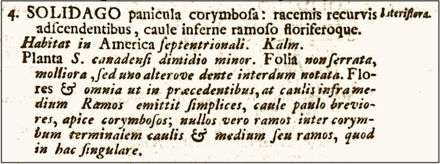
*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* has a [base number](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ploidy) of eight [chromosomes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromosomes) (***x*** = 8).[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Semple3-25) [Diploid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diploid), [tetraploid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetraploid), [hexaploid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hexaploid" \o "Hexaploid), and [octaploid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octaploid" \o "Octaploid) plants with respective chromosome counts of 16, 32, 48, and 64 have been reported.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 836

Taxonomy[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=10)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is a member of the genus *[Symphyotrichum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum" \o "Symphyotrichum)*, classified in the [subgenus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subgenus) *Symphyotrichum*, [section](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Section_(botany)) *Symphyotrichum*, subsection *Dumosi*.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Semple2-26) It is one of the "bushy asters and relatives".[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Semple3-25) Its [basionym](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basionym" \o "Basionym) (original [scientific name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature)) is *Solidago lateriflora* L.,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-2) and it has sixty [taxonomic synonyms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synonym_(taxonomy)). Its name with [author citations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Author_citation_(botany)) is *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (L.) Á.Löve & D.Löve.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3) Swedish botanist [Carl Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus), in 1753, was the first to [describe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species_description) what we know today as *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-2)

**History**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=11)]

In 1748, Linnaeus' [apostle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostles_of_Linnaeus) [Pehr Kalm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pehr_Kalm" \o "Pehr Kalm) traveled to North America from Europe. He stayed for two and a half years studying flora and fauna and gathering specimens for study by Linnaeus, returning home in 1751. Kalm's travels in North America took him to Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and southeastern Canada.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-KalmTravelsEnglish-27) One of the samples he gathered was described by Linnaeus as *Solidago lateriflora*, now the basionym of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*. Linnaeus recorded the specimen's origin as "*Habitat in America Septentrionali*" (Latin for "It grows in North America"), and that it was provided by Kalm. Linnaeus classified this plant in the genus [*Solidago*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solidago)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-SpeciesPlantarum-28): 879 which now contains over 130 of the many species known today as [goldenrods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldenrods).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powoSolidago-29) At that time, Linnaeus sorted fifteen of his available specimens into this genus and included them in his two-volume [*Species Plantarum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species_Plantarum) (1753).[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-SpeciesPlantarum-28): 878–881

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:LinnaeusSpPl1753Description.png)

*Solidago lateriflora* L. [protologue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protologue). Carl Linnaeus (1753), *Species Plantarum*, 2: 879. Latin.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-SpeciesPlantarum-28): 879

In 1789, Scottish botanist [William Aiton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Aiton) included *Solidago lateriflora* in his *Hortus Kewensis*,[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AitonHortKew1789-1-3-30): 211 the first edition of a catalogue of the plants cultivated at [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Botanic_Gardens,_Kew), where he had been the director since 1759.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Chambers-31): 25 In separate entries, he also described an *Aster diffusus*, *Aster divergens*, and *Aster miser*, all as separate species definitions from *Solidago lateriflora*. In the *A. miser* section, Aiton referenced the *A. miser* of Linnaeus "*excluso synonymo Dillennii*".[[h]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-33)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AitonHortKew1789-1-3-30): 205 The [Plants of the World Online](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plants_of_the_World_Online) (POWO) entry for *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* includes *Aster diffusus* Aiton as a synonym, but not *Aster miser* L. or *Aster miser* Aiton. It does include *Aster miser* Nutt.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3) which was described by English naturalist [Thomas Nuttall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Nuttall) in 1818. Nuttall stated that what he described appeared "to be the *A. miser* of Linnaeus, but probably not that of Aiton."[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-NuttallGenAm1818-2-34): 158 *Aster divergens* Aiton is also listed as a taxonomic synonym.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3)

It was not until 1889 that American botanist [Nathaniel Lord Britton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathaniel_Lord_Britton) combined *Solidago lateriflora* L. with *Aster* species, identifying *Aster diffusus* Aiton and *Aster miser* Aiton as the same. This resulted in one species named *Aster lateriflorus* (L.) Britton, with *Solidago lateriflora* L. as the basionym, as it had been the first described.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Britton1889-35) Other names and combinations occurred before and after this, but *Aster lateriflorus* was the only one associated with the original *Solidago lateriflora* until the broad and [polyphyletic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polyphyletic) [circumscription](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circumscription_(taxonomy)) of the genus *Aster* was divided.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Semple-36) *Aster lateriflorus* (L.) Britton was moved to the genus *Symphyotrichum* in 1982 by Áskell and Doris Löve during their study of plant chromosomes[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-L%C3%B6ve1982-37) making its [binomial name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (L.) Á.Löve & D.Löve where it currently remains.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3) The [infraspecies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infraspecies" \o "Infraspecies) were subsequently moved by American botanist [Guy L. Nesom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_L._Nesom) in 1994.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Nesom1994-38): 285

In a 1928 study of *Aster lateriflorus* and close relatives, while pondering the "endless confusion in the naming of specimens" of this species, American botanist [Karl McKay Wiegand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_McKay_Wiegand) noted how environmental differences likely affected leaf and flower head characteristics, causing botanists to name specimens of this plant as different varieties or species when they may not have been.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 174 In this study, Wiegand compared characteristics among the specimens which largely had been ignored up to that point, namely, "the exact length of the involucre and the inner involucral bracts, the number of rays, and the shape of the limb in the disk-corolla as well as the length and character of its lobes."[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 162

**Varieties**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=12)]

The [Catalogue of Life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catalogue_of_Life) (COL) recognized six [varieties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(botany)) of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (L.) Á.Löve & D.Löve on its 2009 Annual Checklist.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-CatalogueOfLife2009-39) By 2017, all had been demoted to taxonomic synonyms.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-CatalogueOfLife2017-40) *S. lateriflorum* var. *hirsuticaule* was demoted five years prior, in 2012.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-CatalogueOfLife2012-S-l-hirsuticaule-41) According to [*Flora of North America*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flora_of_North_America), "[m]uch genetic and phenotypic variation is encountered within the complex; a thorough study is needed before a coherent taxonomy can be achieved."[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4)

Although the following varieties are neither accepted by COL[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-CatalogueOfLife2020-42) nor POWO,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3) they were accepted as of June 2021 by one or more of USDA PLANTS Database,[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-USDASYLA4-2-43) NatureServe,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natserv-1) [World Flora Online](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Flora_Online) (WFO),[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-WFO1-44) [Integrated Taxonomic Information System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_Taxonomic_Information_System) (ITIS),[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ITIS-45) and Database of Vascular Plants of Canada (VASCAN).[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-vascan-46) The [autonym](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonym_(botany)) is *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum*.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservLATER-47)

**Variety *angustifolium***[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=13)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum_(15366184652)_cropped.jpg)

Lanceolate and linear leaves on an inflorescence of *S. lateriflorum*

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *angustifolium* (Wiegand) G.L.Nesom is commonly known as narrow-leaved calico aster.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gbifAng-48) Latin [*angustus*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/angustus#Latin) means *narrow* and [*folium*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/folium#Latin) means *foliage* or *leaves*. In 1903, American botanist [Edward Sandford Burgess](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Sandford_Burgess) described a new species he named *Aster agrostifolius* which, along with other characteristics, had very thin grass-like leaves.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Small1903-13): 1226 Latin [*agrostis*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/agrostis#Latin) means *grass*. Karl McKay Wiegand, in 1928, then described a new variety of *A. lateriflorus* with narrow lanceolate or linear leaves which he called *A. lateriflorus* var. *angustifolius*. He did not associate it with the *A. agrostifolius* of Burgess. Wiegand identified the [holotype](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holotype) for his variety as collected from Cheshire, Massachusetts, 1915, by J. R. Churchill[[i]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-50) and held in the [herbarium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbarium) of the New England Botanical Club.[[j]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-51)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 174 He was quick to note that "var. *angustifolius* may be nothing more than a separation of the narrow leaved individuals of the typical form."[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 175 After Nesom reclassified the varieties from genus *Aster* to *Symphyotrichum*, *S. lateriflorum* var. *angustifolium* was created, and the two former taxa became its taxonomic synonyms.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Nesom1994-38): 285[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-WFO1a-52)

**Variety *flagellare***[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=14)]

In 1953, Canadian-American botanist [Lloyd Herbert Shinners](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lloyd_Herbert_Shinners) named specimens as two new varieties of *Aster lateriflorus*: *A. lateriflorus* var. *flagellaris* Shinners and *A. lateriflorus* var. *indutus* Shinners.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-lateriflorus-flagellaris-53)[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-lateriflorus-indutus-54) In his [protologues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protologue), Shinners said specifically that both had deeply lobed disk corollas and no rhizomes, and these characteristics were his reasoning for placing them both with *A. lateriflorus*.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1953-55): 157–158

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:BRIT560693_Aster_lateriflorus_var._flagellaris_Shinners_Herbarium_Specimen.jpg)

Herbarium specimen of *S. lateriflorum* var. *flagellare*[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-BRIT560693-56)

Regarding leaf characteristics, Shinners stated that *Aster lateriflorus* var. *lateriflorus*, *A. l.* var. *angustifolius*, and *A. l.* var. *pendulus* all had [pubescent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pubescent_(botany)) abaxial midribs, but did not say that his two new varieties had the same.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1953-55): 157–158 He said the opposite: in the protologue for *A. lateriflorus* var. *flagellaris*, Shinners wrote in Latin "*foliis subter omnino glabris*", which in English is "leaves totally glabrous on the abaxial side."[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1953-55): 157 Thus, no hair abaxially on the leaves of this variety. In the *A. lateriflorus* var. *indutus* protologue, Shinners wrote "*foliis subter puberulis super dense scabris*", translated to English is "leaves with some hairs on the abaxial side, on the [adaxial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaxial_(botany)) side densely scabrous." There is no mention of an exclusivity of hair on its midrib either.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1953-55): 158

The type specimens of *Aster lateriflorus* var. *flagellaris* and *A. lateriflorus* var. *indutus* were both collected in Texas, the former in 1947 in [Henderson County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henderson_County,_Texas), and the latter in 1946, two miles southeast of [Daingerfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daingerfield,_Texas), which is in [Morris County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_County,_Texas). Shinners was working from only the type specimen for *A. lateriflorus* var. *indutus*, and he viewed multiple specimens for *A. lateriflorus* var. *flagellaris*, mostly from Texas, and one from [McCurtain County, Oklahoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCurtain_County,_Oklahoma), which is the southeasternmost county of that state and on the north side of the [Red River of the South](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_River_of_the_South) bordering Texas.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1953-55): 157–158

Specimens collected by American botanist Alfred Traverse in [Harris County, Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris_County,_Texas), and verified by Shinners as *A. lateriflorus* var. *flagellaris* are stored at the [Botanical Research Institute of Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botanical_Research_Institute_of_Texas) Philecology Herbarium,[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-BRIT560693-56)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-BRIT560692-57) as is one collected in 1934 by American botanist [Eula Whitehouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eula_Whitehouse) at the [Ottine wetlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottine_wetlands" \o "Ottine wetlands) in [Gonzales County, Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gonzales_County,_Texas), and determined by German-American botanist [Almut Gitter Jones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almut_Gitter_Jones" \o "Almut Gitter Jones) to be *A. lateriflorus* var. *indutus*.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-BRIT333802-58) The current name of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *flagellare* (Shinners) G.L.Nesom was created in 1994, and the two prior taxa became its taxonomic synonyms.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-WFO1f-59)

**Variety *hirsuticaule***[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=15)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Budding_calico_aster.jpg)

Very pubescent specimen of *S. lateriflorum*

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *hirsuticaule* (Lindl. ex DC.) G.L.Nesom is known as rough-stemmed calico aster and starved aster.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-vascanHirsu-60) *Aster hirsuticaulis*, its basionym, was originally published by Swiss botanist [Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin_Pyramus_de_Candolle) in 1836 as having been defined by English botanist [John Lindley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lindley).[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-hirsuticaulis-61) Latin [*hirsuti*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/hirsuti#Latin) [*caulis*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/caulis#Latin) translates to *hairy stem*. An abundance of flower cluster stem hair ("*caule racemoso hirsutissimo*") and the existence of abaxial leaf rib hair ("*costâ subtùs hirsutissimâ*") were both in the Latin protologue published by de Candolle.[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-DC1836Prodr5-62)

Subsequent authorities demoted *Aster hirsuticaulis* to infraspecies.[[k]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-64) American botanists [John Torrey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Torrey) and [Asa Gray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asa_Gray) did so first in 1841 with *A. miser* var. *hirsuticaulis*,[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-miser-hirsuticaulis-65) using the abaxial pubescent or hirsute (very hairy) midrib as a primary defining factor.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-TorreyGray1841-131-66) They also stated that the leaves of the variety were "more or less hirsute".[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-TorreyGray1841-131-66) Gray followed up in 1884 with *A. diffusus* var. *hirsuticaulis*.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-diffusus-hirsuticaulis-67) Here, Gray specified an environmental factor, "probably growing in much shade", also writing that the abaxial midrib and the stem were "very hirsute".[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Gray1884-68): 187

In 1894, German botanist and horticulturist [Andreas Voss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Voss_(botanist)) further demoted *Aster hirsuticaulis* to a [form](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Form_(botany)) of *A. diffusus*.[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-diffusus-f-hirsuticaulis-69) Voss placed his form classifications of *A. hirsuticaulis* and *A. bifrons* under *A. diffusus* var. *thyrsoideus*. He stated that these forms "*sind nur üppige, an schattigen und feuchten Orten stehende, lockerer gebaute, höhere Pflanzen*", in English, "are just luxurious plants growing at shady and moist places, less branched and taller".[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-SiebertVoss1894-70) That same year, Pennsylvania botanist [Thomas Conrad Porter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Conrad_Porter) demoted *A. hirsuticaulis* to a variety of Britton's *A. lateriflorus*, which took precedence.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-lateriflorus-hirsuticaulis-71) After Nesom reclassified the varieties from genus *Aster* to *Symphyotrichum*,[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Nesom1994-38): 285 these became taxonomic synonyms of the new *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *hirsuticaule*.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-hirsuticaule-72)

**Variety *horizontale***[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=16)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NYBG_varHorizontale_1852241.jpg)

Herbarium specimen identified as *S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale*, collected by T. Nuttall, 1831, in New Jersey[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-NYBG6561748-73)

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* (Desf.) G.L.Nesom is commonly called horizontal calico aster.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhsps-74) It has been in [cultivation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horticulture) in Europe since the mid-1700s, and possibly before. The protologue for the earliest taxonomic synonym, *Aster pendulus*, was by William Aiton in 1789 who stated that the plant he was describing was cultivated in 1758 by English botanist [Philip Miller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Miller)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AitonHortKew1789-1-3-30): 204 who was chief gardener at the [Chelsea Physic Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_Physic_Garden) from 1722 to 1770.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-LeRougetel1986-75) In the preface of *Hortus Kewensis*, Aiton wrote that he remembered "several Plants to have been cultivated by Mr. Ph. Miller, in the Physick Garden at Chelsea, though no reference is made to them in [Miller's] [Gardener's Dictionary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gardeners_Dictionary)."[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AitonHortKew1789-1-1-76): x

Nuttall demoted *Aster pendulus* to a variety of *A. divergens* in 1818.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-NuttallGenAm1818-2-34): 159 In 1833, American botanist [Lewis Caleb Beck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Caleb_Beck) created *A. miser* var. *pendulus* from *A. pendulus* Aiton. His short description states that the leaves of the branches are "rather remote".[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Beck1833-77): 186 In 1829, French botanist [René Louiche Desfontaines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ren%C3%A9_Louiche_Desfontaines) described and named *Aster horizontalis* with a focus on *ramuli horizontales*, or "horizontal branches".[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Desfontaines1829-78): 402 In 1884, Asa Gray placed this as a variety of *A. diffusus*. His description included that it was a "cultivated form ... a plant of the gardens, not exactly matched by indigenous specimens, but evidently of this species." He gave the synonyms as *A. horizontalis* Desf. and *A. recurvatus* Willd., the latter described by German botanist [Carl Ludwig Willdenow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Ludwig_Willdenow) in 1803.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Willdenow1803-79): 2047

American botanist [Oliver Atkins Farwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Atkins_Farwell) placed *Aster horizontalis* Desf. as a variety of *A. lateriflorus* (L.) Britton, describing it in 1895 as "a tall plant with long straggling horizontal branches."[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Farwell1895-80): 21 In 1898, Burgess demoted *A. pendulus* Aiton to a variety of *Aster lateriflorus*.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-BrittonBrown1898-81): 380 Finally, Nesom created *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* when he moved the varieties to genus *Symphyotrichum*.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Nesom1994-38): 285[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-horizontale-82) Its taxonomic synonyms are listed as *Aster horizontalis* Desf., *A. diffusus* var. *horizontalis* (Desf.) A.Gray, *A. lateriflorus* var. *horizontalis* (Desf.) Farw., and *A. lateriflorus* var. *pendulus* (Aiton) E.S.Burgess.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-WFO1h-83) The [Royal Horticultural Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Horticultural_Society) (RHS) presents an [Award of Garden Merit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Award_of_Garden_Merit) as a "seal of approval that the plant performs reliably in the garden."[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSAGM-84) This variety is cultivated and marketed as an [ornamental garden plant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ornamental_garden_plant) in Europe and gained this award in 1993.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhslist-85)

**Variety *spatelliforme***[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=17)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NYBG_from_Small_Herb_1429609091_Aster_spatelliformis_E.S.Burgess_-_Holotype.jpg)

Holotype of *Aster spatelliformis* E.S.Burgess, from [J.K.Small](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kunkel_Small" \o "John Kunkel Small) Herbarium, now in the NYBG Steere Herbarium[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-NYBG6464207-86)

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *spatelliforme* (E.S.Burgess) G.L.Nesom was described by Burgess in 1903 as species *Aster spatelliformis*, making it the basionym of this variety. Burgess' protologue primarily focused on leaf characteristics which he said were how it differed from *A. lateriflorus*. Leaves were described, in part, as small, rounded, and spatulate-shaped, with fine, reticulate veins and a short wedge-shaped base.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Small1903-13): 1225

In 1984, Almut Gitter Jones demoted *Aster spatelliformis* to a variety of *A. lateriflorus*.[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Jones1984-87): 379 Note that it was in 1982 that Löve and Löve began moving species to the genus *Symphyotrichum*.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-L%C3%B6ve1982-37): 358–359 Two years before, in 1980, Jones had placed *Symphyotrichum* as a subgenus of *Aster*.[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Jones1980-88): 234 It was not until Nesom's evaluation of Aster *[sensu lato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensu_lato" \o "Sensu lato)* in 1994 that Jones' subgenus was combined with the genus.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Nesom1994-38): 267 After this, *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *spatelliforme* was created, and the two former taxa became its taxonomic synonyms.[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-WFO1s-89)

**Variety *tenuipes***[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=18)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flowering_calico_aster.jpg)

*S. lateriflorum* plant showing a zigzag growing pattern

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *tenuipes* (Wiegand) G.L.Nesom is commonly called slender-stalked calico aster.[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gbifTen-90) It was said by American botanists [Henry A. Gleason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_A._Gleason_(botanist)) and [Arthur Cronquist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Cronquist) to be a lax plant, with wiry stems, often larger heads in open panicles, and involucres to 6.5 mm.[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-GleasonCronquist1963-91) Wiegand first described it as a variety in 1928, *Aster lateriflorus* var. *tenuipes* Wiegand, with slender and "somewhat [zigzag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zigzag)" stems, larger heads, and longer rays than the standard form of the species. He attached as holotype a specimen from Dundee, [Prince Edward Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Edward_Island), collected in 1912 by [Fernald](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merritt_Lyndon_Fernald), Long & [St. John](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_St._John),[[l]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-92) stored as no. 814 in the [Gray Herbarium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_Herbarium).[[m]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-93)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 174

In 1943, Shinners promoted the variety to species level as *Aster tenuipes* (Wiegand) Shinners, specifying that it lacked the "pubescent midveins" of *A. lateriflorus*.[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1943-346-94) This name had been in use since 1898 as *Aster tenuipes* [Makino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomitar%C3%B4_Makino), native to Japan.[[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-aster-tenuipes-Makino-95)[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powoAster-tenuipes-Makino-96) The following year, Shinners renamed his to *Aster acadiensis* Shinners.[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Shinners1944-31-97) Nesom created *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *tenuipes* when he moved the varieties to genus *Symphyotrichum*.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Nesom1994-38): 285[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-IPNI-symphyotrichum-lateriflorum-tenuipes-98) These three names, *Aster lateriflorus* var. *tenuipes* Wiegand, *A. tenuipes* (Wiegand) Shinners, and *A. acadiensis* Shinners, are now its taxonomic synonyms.[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-WFO1t-99)

**Hybrids**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=19)]

The following naturally occurring [hybrids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hybrid_(botany)) have been reported:

* [*Symphyotrichum dumosum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_dumosum) × *S. lateriflorum*[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-gobot-19)
* [*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_cordifolium)*×*S. lateriflorum[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-SempleHeardBrouillet2002-100): 22
* [*Symphyotrichum laeve*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_laeve) var. *laeve* × *S. lateriflorum*[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-efloFNASLaeve-101)[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-vascanLaeveLat-102)
* [*Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lanceolatum) [subsp.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subspecies) *lanceolatum* × *S. lateriflorum*[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-vascanLanceLat-103)[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-SempleBrammall1982-104)
* [*Symphyotrichum puniceum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_puniceum) × *S. lateriflorum*[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-SempleHeardBrouillet2002-100): 22

**Etymology**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=20)]

The [specific epithet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Specific_epithet_(botany)) (second part of the scientific name) *lateriflorum* is a combination of the Latin words for *side* ([*lateri*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/lateri#Latin), literally meaning *flank*) and *flower* ([*florum*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/florum#Latin)), so named because the flowers are seen to grow on one side of the branches.[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-mobot-105) *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is commonly known as calico aster, starved aster, white woodland aster,[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gbifBackbone-106) side-flowering aster,[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-CBGSlat-107) side-flower aster, goblet aster, one-side aster, one-sided aster, farewell summer,[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gbifBackbone-106) and calico American-aster.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gobot-19) Along with other asters that bloom in the fall, *S. lateriflorum* may be called a [Michaelmas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michaelmas" \o "Michaelmas) daisy.[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-GWMichaelmasDaisies-108) There are indigenous American names for this plant including the [Meskwaki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meskwaki) word *no'sîkûn* and the [Potawatomi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potawatomi) word *pûkwänä'sîkûn*, both as spelled by [ethnobotanist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnobotanist) [Huron Herbert Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huron_Herbert_Smith).[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-neab1-109)

*Aster* comes from the [Ancient Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek) word [ἀστήρ](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E1%BC%80%CF%83%CF%84%CE%AE%CF%81" \o "wikt:ἀστήρ) (*astḗr*), meaning *star*, referring to the shape of the flower. The word *aster* was used to describe a star-like flower as early as 1542 in [*De historia stirpium commentarii insignes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_historia_stirpium_commentarii_insignes), a book by the German physician and botanist [Leonhart Fuchs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonhart_Fuchs). An old common name for [Astereae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astereae" \o "Astereae) species using the suffix [*-wort*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wort_(plant)) is starwort, also spelled star-wort or star wort. An early use of this name can be found in the same work by Fuchs as *Sternkraut*, translated from German literally as star herb ([*Stern*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Stern#German) [*Kraut*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Kraut#German)).[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-FuchsDeHistoria-110) The name star-wort was in use by Aiton in his 1789 [*Hortus Kewensis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hortus_Kewensis). Scientific names that were later changed to be taxonomic synonyms of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum" \l "cite_note-CatalogueOfLife2020-42) had common names such as diffuse white-flower'd star-wort and pendulus star-wort in this work (*Aster diffusus* and *Aster pendulus*, respectively).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AitonHortKew1789-1-3-30): 204–205

Distribution and habitat[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=21)]

**Distribution**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=22)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is present in the wild in the United States in all states east of the [Mississippi River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River); in the states on the west Mississippi River bank ([Minnesota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota), [Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa), [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri), [Arkansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arkansas), and [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana)); and, in the western states of [South Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Dakota), [Nebraska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska), [Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas), [Oklahoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma), and [Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas). It is also present in the Canadian provinces of [Manitoba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manitoba), [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario), [Quebec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec), [New Brunswick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Brunswick), and Prince Edward Island. In Mexico, it is present in the state of [Veracruz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veracruz). *S. lateriflorum* is native throughout its current North American range.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3) The USDA PLANTS Database records a presence in [British Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia),[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-USDASYLA4-2-43) but *Flora of North America* states that it was an [ephemeral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephemerality) there that did not persist.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNASLat-4) Varietal distributions have been recorded as follows:

* *S. lateriflorum* var. *angustifolium* is present in Ontario, as well as in the U.S. region of [New England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England) except Rhode Island, and in the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and Wisconsin.[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservANG-111)
* *S. lateriflorum* var. *flagellare* is present in Oklahoma and Texas.[[99]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservFLAG-112)
* *S. lateriflorum* var. *hirsuticaule* is present in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-vascanHirsu-60) Because it is considered a taxonomic synonym and not a variety of the species in most databases, United States distribution data cannot be found.
* *S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* is present in New Brunswick, and in all U.S. states east of the Mississippi River excluding Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, and Louisiana. Also present west of the Mississippi in Minnesota, Missouri, and Arkansas.[[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservHORIZ-113)
* *S. lateriflorum* var. *spatelliforme* is present in Florida.[[101]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservSPAT-114)
* *S. lateriflorum* var. *tenuipes* is present in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservTENU-115)

*S. lateriflorum* is an [introduced species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Introduced_species) in Belgium,[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-gbifBelg-116) France, Italy, and Switzerland.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-powolat-3) As of July 2021, it was not on the European Union's [List of invasive alien species of Union concern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_invasive_alien_species_of_Union_concern).[[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-EUList-117)

**Habitat**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=23)]

Habitat can vary considerably, including wet to dry-[mesic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesic_habitat) [woodlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodland) and [savannas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savanna), [floodplain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floodplain) woodlands, [fens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fen), [marshes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marsh), wet to wet-mesic [prairies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie), and high [water table](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_table) [old fields](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_field_(ecology)).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1101 *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* has been found on [banks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bank_(geography)), in [thickets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thicket), and on [shores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shore) usually in rather dry, but also in damp or even wet, sandy or gravelly soil.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Wiegand1928-11): 173 *S. lateriflorum* is categorized on the United States National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) with [Wetland Indicator Status Ratings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wetland_indicator_status) of [Facultative](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/facultative) Wetland (FACW) and Facultative (FAC), depending on [wetland region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wetland_region_(United_States)). In the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain (AGCP) and Northcentral and Northeast (NCNE) regions, it is a Facultative Plant (FAC), choosing wetlands or non-wetlands and adjusting accordingly. In the Eastern Mountains and Piedmont (EMP), Great Plains (GP), and Midwest (MW) regions, it is a Facultative Wetland Plant (FACW), usually occurring in wetlands, but not out of necessity. In these regions, it is less likely to, but may choose non-wetlands.[[105]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-NWPL2018-118): 176

Companions or associates depend upon the environment where *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is growing. Nearby naturally occurring native North American trees can include silver maple ([*Acer saccharinum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acer_saccharinum)), ash-leaved maple or boxelder ([*Acer negundo*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acer_negundo)), common hackberry ([*Celtis occidentalis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtis_occidentalis)), downy hawthorn ([*Crataegus mollis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crataegus_mollis)), the critically endangered green ash ([*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraxinus_pennsylvanica)), common elderberry ([*Sambucus canadensis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sambucus_canadensis)), and the endangered American elm (*[Ulmus americana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulmus_americana" \o "Ulmus americana)*).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1101 Some companion *Symphyotrichum* species are Drummond's aster ([*S. drummondii*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_drummondii)), shining aster ([*S. firmum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_firmum)), panicled aster ([*S. lanceolatum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lanceolatum)), New England aster ([*S. novae-angliae*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_novae-angliae)), and purplestem aster ([*S. puniceum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_puniceum)).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102

Ecology[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=24)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is considered a weed species in Canada and the United States. It is not considered a noxious weed in either country. Canadian botanists Jerry G. Chmielewski and [John C. Semple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Semple) called it "probably the least weedy of the weedy aster species in Canada."[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 838,839 *S. lateriflorum* has [coefficients of conservatism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coefficient_of_conservatism) (C-value) in the [Floristic Quality Assessment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floristic_Quality_Assessment) (FQA) that range from 1 to 10 depending on evaluation region.[[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-FreymanSpecies-119) The lower the C-value, the higher tolerance the species has for disturbance. In the case of a low C-value, there is lesser likelihood that the plant is growing in an [undisturbed or remnant habitat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remnant_natural_area) with native flora and fauna.[[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Rothrock2004-120): 3 For example, in the [Atlantic coastal pine barrens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_coastal_pine_barrens) of Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island, *S. lateriflorum* has been given a C-value of 1, meaning its presence in locations of that [ecoregion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ecoregions_in_the_United_States_(EPA)) provides little or no confidence of a remnant habitat.[[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-MetzlerEtAl2018-121) In contrast, in [the Dakotas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dakotas), *S. lateriflorum* has a C-value of 10, meaning its populations there are not weedy and are restricted to only remnant habitats which have a very low tolerance to [environmental degradation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_degradation).[[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-DakotasFQA-122)

**Reproduction**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=25)]

Calico aster's primary means of reproduction is through pollination, which occurs with the help of short or mid-length tongued insects that are able to manipulate the small flower heads successfully and transfer pollen from one plant to another. The use of pollen from one plant to fertilize another is called [*cross-pollination*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-pollination) and is required by this species. Any occasional [self-pollination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-pollination) produces only a few viable seeds.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842–843 As an adaptive mechanism, the flower heads of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* "go to sleep" at night. The flower heads close the ray florets around the disk florets. This may help protect and preserve the pollen within.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842 Reproduction also can occur through cloning via the plant's short rhizomatic structure. Typically, this causes the formation of small groups rather than large colonies, because *S. lateriflorum* is not a large colony-producing species. It is more likely for any [vegetative reproduction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vegetative_reproduction) (non-seed reproduction) to form within a clump.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 843

Ray florets in the *Symphyotrichum* genus are exclusively female, each having a [pistil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pistil) (with [style](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Style_(botany)), [stigma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stigma_(botany)), and [ovary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovary_(botany))) but no [stamen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamen). Ray florets accept [pollen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollen) and each can develop a [seed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed), but they produce no pollen.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNAGenus-6) The ray florets of *S. lateriflorum* bloom earlier and are likely receptive to pollen longer than the disk florets.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842

Each ray floret has three [petals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petal) which are fused together to form a corolla. The floret has one ovary at the bottom, and this ovary contains one [ovule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovule).[[n]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-123) The ovary has an attached style that extends outward from between the ray floret corolla and the rest of the flower head. As the ray floret is blooming, the stigma at the top of the style splits into two lobes to allow pollen to access the ovary.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-MorhardtMorhardt2004-18): 30–31

Disk florets in the *Symphyotrichum* genus are [bisexual](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermaphrodite_(botany)), each with both male (stamen, [anthers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anther), and [filaments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filament_(botany))) and female reproductive parts; thus, a disk floret produces pollen and can develop a seed. The disk floret has five petals, sometimes referred to as *lobes*, which are fused into its own corolla in the shape of a tube.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-efloFNAGenus-6) When the disk floret of *S. lateriflorum* is blooming, the corolla lobes separate to about 50–75% the length of the corolla.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 837

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Calico_Asters_25_September_2012-cropped.jpg)

Close-up of a flower head showing open and closed disk florets with three elongated stamens, styles and stigmas covered in pollen and not visible

The male stamen is inside the tube-shaped corolla of the disk floret. It has five anthers, five filaments, and produces pollen. The anthers and filaments are readily visible as separate entities in non-Asteraceae species. Here, they are fused together to form a cylinder, or tube, with their pollen on the inside only. This male anther cylinder surrounds the female style and stigma. As the style is maturing, it elongates up through the anther cylinder, gathering the pollen on its stigma along the way.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-MorhardtMorhardt2004-18): 30

The ovary is at the bottom of the disk floret style. As with the ray floret, the disk floret stigma has two lobes that are fused together. The disk floret's stigma stays closed while pollen is on it, keeping its ovary safe from self-pollination. After the pollen has been collected and carried off by one or more pollinators, the stigma begins to split into two lobes, opening the style so that the disk floret ovary becomes accessible to receive pollen from another plant.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-MorhardtMorhardt2004-18): 30

When pollination is complete, the seeds become ripe in 3–4 weeks, hardening and developing pappi. They are then [wind dispersed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anemochory). Usually, the seeds will have their dried corollas attached as they depart.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 842–843

**Pollinators and nectar-seekers**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=26)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Calico_aster_(25708681016)_2100x2100.jpg)

Tricolored bumblebee ([*Bombus ternarius*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombus_ternarius)) pollinating *S. lateriflorum*

[Pollinators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollinator) and [nectar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nectar)-seekers include short and mid-length tongued insects such as common eastern bumblebee ([*Bombus impatiens*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombus_impatiens)), European honeybee (*[Apis mellifera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apis_mellifera" \o "Apis mellifera)*), eastern yellowjacket ([*Vespula maculifrons*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespula_maculifrons)), bald-faced hornet (*[Dolichovespula maculata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolichovespula_maculata" \o "Dolichovespula maculata)*), cloudy-winged miner bee ([*Andrena nubecula*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrena_nubecula)), the miner bees *[Pseudopanurgus andrenoides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudopanurgus_andrenoides" \o "Pseudopanurgus andrenoides)* and *[Pseudopanurgus compositarum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudopanurgus_compositarum" \o "Pseudopanurgus compositarum)*, and the apoid wasp *[Cerceris kennicottii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerceris_kennicottii" \o "Cerceris kennicottii)*.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102

[Sweat bees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halictidae) and [hoverflies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoverflies) also visit the flowers. Some that have been recorded include the bristle sweat bee (*[Lasioglossum imitatum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasioglossum_imitatum" \o "Lasioglossum imitatum)*), Cresson's metallic sweat bee (*[Lasioglossum cressonii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasioglossum_cressonii" \o "Lasioglossum cressonii)*), experienced sweat bee (*[Lasioglossum versatum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasioglossum_versatum" \o "Lasioglossum versatum)*), golden green sweat bee (*[Augochlorella aurata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augochlorella_aurata" \o "Augochlorella aurata)*), leathery sweat bee (*[Lasioglossum coriaceum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasioglossum_coriaceum" \o "Lasioglossum coriaceum)*), nightmare sweat bee (*[Lasioglossum ephialtum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lasioglossum_ephialtum" \o "Lasioglossum ephialtum)*), and pure golden green sweat bee (*[Augochlora pura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augochlora_pura" \o "Augochlora pura)*). The hoverfly species *[Eristalis arbustorum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eristalis_arbustorum" \o "Eristalis arbustorum)*, *[Eristalis dimidiata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eristalis_dimidiata" \o "Eristalis dimidiata)*, and the calligrapher fly (*[Toxomerus marginatus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxomerus_marginatus" \o "Toxomerus marginatus)*) also have been recorded visiting the flowers.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102

**Pests and diseases**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=27)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Astrotischeria_astericola.jpg)

Leaf miner *Astrotischeria astericola* damage on calico aster

Banded woolly bear caterpillars (larvae of the isabella tiger moth *[Pyrrharctia isabella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrrharctia_isabella" \o "Pyrrharctia isabella)*)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102 eat the leaves, as does the larvae of the green owlet (*[Leuconycta diphteroides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leuconycta_diphteroides" \o "Leuconycta diphteroides)*).[[110]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-HOSTS3-124)[[111]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-HOSTS4-125) *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is also host to the pearl crescent butterfly (*[Phyciodes tharos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyciodes_tharos" \o "Phyciodes tharos)*)[[112]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-HOSTS6-126) and the silvery checkerspot (*[Charidryas harrisii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlosyne_nycteis" \o "Chlosyne nycteis)*).[[113]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-HOSTS5-127) [Leaf miners](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leaf_miner) also eat the leaves, including the [leaf blotch miner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gracillariidae) *[Acrocercops astericola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acrocercops_astericola" \o "Acrocercops astericola)*[[114]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-DePrins2020-128) and the ["trumpet" leaf miner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tischerioidea) *[Astrotischeria astericola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrotischeria_astericola" \o "Astrotischeria astericola)*.[[115]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ncmoths-129) The larvae of the *Coleophora* silk case-bearing moth *[Coleophora dextrella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coleophora_dextrella" \o "Coleophora dextrella)* feed on the seeds,[[116]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-HOSTS1-130)[[117]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-HOSTS2-131) and the [galls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gall) produced by the midge *[Rhopalomyia lateriflori](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhopalomyia_lateriflori" \o "Rhopalomyia lateriflori)* occur in the [axillary buds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axillary_bud) where their larvae can develop.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 846 Fungal diseases include the [rusts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rust_fungi) [*Puccinia dioicae*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puccinia_dioicae) and [*Puccinia asteris*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puccinia_asteris), which can occur on the leaves,[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-fotcr2017-5): 1102 and the [powdery mildew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powdery_mildew) [*Erysiphe cichoracearum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erysiphe_cichoracearum) has been found on plants of *S. lateriflorum* in Ontario and Quebec.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 846

Conservation[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=28)]

[NatureServe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NatureServe) lists *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* as [Secure (G5)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NatureServe_conservation_status) worldwide,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natserv-1) and *S. lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum* is Critically Imperiled (S1) in Kansas and Nebraska.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservLATER-47) *S. lateriflorum* var. *angustifolium* is possibly Imperiled (S2) in Kentucky,[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservANG-111) and *S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* is Imperiled (S2) in New Jersey.[[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-natservHORIZ-113)

Uses[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=29)]

**Medicinal**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=30)]

In 1928, [ethnobotanist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnobotany) Huron Herbert Smith documented the Meskwaki use of this plant as a psychological aid using the "blossoms as a [smudge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smudging) 'to cure a crazy person who has lost his mind'", and as an herbal steam using the entire plant "as a smoke or steam in [sweatbath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweatbath" \o "Sweatbath)". The Meskwaki word is *no'sîkûn*, and the Potawatomi *pûkwänä'sîkûn*. Both words mean "smoke a person".[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-neab1-109) In her 1979 book *Use of Plants for the Past 500 Years*, Charlotte Erichsen-Brown documented that the [Mohawk people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohawk_people) use an infusion of this plant with *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* to treat fever.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-ChmielewskiSemple2001-15): 839

**Gardening**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=31)]

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* is said to be [hardy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardiness_(plants)) to [USDA Zone 3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USDA_hardiness_zone) (to −40 °C (−40 °F)).[[118]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AniskoT2008-132): 430 An adult plant can be [propagated by division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Division_(horticulture)) of the [rootstock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rootstock), although this is only needed every few years.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 102 It will grow well in shade or sun, and in any soil with some moisture.[[118]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AniskoT2008-132): 430

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:138-53_Aster_lateriflorus_var._horizontalis_-_Garten_Dietrich.jpg)

*S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* in a European garden in full bloom

The earliest record of the species in gardens was of a taxonomic synonym of *S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* called *Aster pendulus*. It was cultivated by Philip Miller by 1758.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-AitonHortKew1789-1-3-30): 204 Miller was chief gardener at the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1722 to 1770.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-LeRougetel1986-75) A [physic garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physic_garden) is one devoted to medicinal plants. This variety is still often called *Aster lateriflorus* var. *horizontalis* and is sometimes labeled in [cultivar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultivar) form as 'Horizontalis'.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhsps-74) *S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* gained the RHS Award of Garden Merit in 1993.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhslist-85)

*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* is listed as very hardy with [RHS Hardiness Rating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RHS_Hardiness_Rating) H7, which is to below −20 °C (−4 °F).[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhslist-85) The RHS Plant Finder suggests it for flower borders and beds of cottage and informal gardens, growing in an open location with full sun and well-drained moderately fertile soil.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhsps-74)

**Cultivars**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum&action=edit&section=32)]

Marketed cultivars of calico aster can be found using common names and the current and previous scientific names. Below is an alphabetical list of some probable or definite cultivars of *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* with descriptions and history when available.

**'Bleke Bet'**[[119]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSBlekeBet-133) reaches a height of 120 cm (4 ft), has dark leaves, and 18 mm diameter flowers with rose to purple centers and white ray florets.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 103

**'Buck's Fizz'**[[120]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSBucksFizz-134) has 13 mm diameter flowers that have white rays with pink to purple disks, and leaves with "bronze-purple tints". It is reported to reach a maximum height of 60 cm (2 ft).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 103

**'Cassiope'** is listed as a cultivar of *S. lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum* and is without description in the RHS Plant Finder as of June 2021.[[121]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSCassiope-135) It was introduced as early as 1910 as a cultivar of *A. vimineus*.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 144

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:26-28_Aster_%27Chloe%27_-_Garten_Dietrich.jpg)

'Chloe' in full bloom

**'Chaevis Callsope'**, last listed in the 2000 RHS Plant Finder, is without description as of June 2021.[[122]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSChaevisCallsope-136)

**'Chloe'** has an active listing in the RHS Plant Finder as of June 2021.[[123]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSChloe-137)

**'Coombe Fishacre'**, found in the RHS Plant Finder simply as *Symphyotrichum* 'Coombe Fishacre' without a species name, won the RHS Award of Garden Merit in 1993.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-rhslist-85) It has multiple common or marketing synonyms and is offered both as a cultivar of *A. novi-belgii* (*S. novi-belgii*, New York Aster)[[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSCoombeFishacre-138) and as a hybrid of both.[[125]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-PerenniculumCoombeFishacre-139) RHS shows another synonym, *Aster coelestis* 'Coombe Fishacre'.[[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSCoombeFishacre-138) *A. diffusus* var. *horizontalis* was its parent according to the following passage from the periodical *Gardening World Illustrated* (1898).[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-GWMichaelmasDaisies-108) That variety is the *S. lateriflorum* var. *horizontale* of today.

The comparatively new variety [of Michaelmas Daisy], Coombe Fishacre, which was raised by [Mr. Archer Hind](https://species.wikimedia.org/wiki/Thomas_H._Archer-Hind), is in magnificent condition at [Long Ditton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Ditton) at the present time, and the plants are conspicuous amongst all the rest by reason of their extreme floriferousness. The bronzy-red and white flowers much resemble those of A. diffusus horizontalis, its parent, but they are larger and finer. The height is about 31/2 ft.[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-GWMichaelmasDaisies-108)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Aster_Coombe_Fishacre_(15413969515).jpg)

'Coombe Fishacre' in a garden in England

'Coombe Fishacre' is said to be hardy to RHS H7, bloom in late summer and autumn, and in 2–5 years reach a height of 50–100 cm (1+3⁄4–3+1⁄4 ft) and width of 10–50 cm (1⁄4–1+3⁄4 ft).[[124]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSCoombeFishacre-138)

**'Daisy Bush'** was introduced in 1993 and has green leaves and bushy branches of flower heads that are 20 mm diameter, with white rays and pale yellow disks. It reaches a height of 70 cm (2+1⁄5 ft).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 103 It was last listed in the RHS Plant Finder in 1997.[[126]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSDaisyBush-140)

**'Datschi'** was last listed in the RHS Plant Finder in 2018.[[127]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSDatschi-141) According to Paul Picton, author of *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Asters*, 'Datschi' was introduced before 1920. It has flower heads 13 mm diameter, white rays, pale yellow disk florets that are less likely to change color, deep green leaves, and reaches a height of 120 cm (4 ft).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 103 There was a cultivar named Datschi in the RHS Autumn 1919 trials at [Wisely](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RHS_Garden,_Wisley) assigned to their type *diffusus*,[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-JoRHS1921AstersWisely-142): 371 which is not explicitly said to be an *A. diffusus* cultivar but is more descriptive of that growing habit.[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-JoRHS1921AstersWisely-142): 370 It had single white flowers reported as 3⁄8–1⁄2 inch diameter that bloomed from 23 October 1919–5 November 1919, and it reached a height of 4 feet.[[128]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-JoRHS1921AstersWisely-142): 371

**'Delight'** was last listed in the RHS Plant Finder in 2007.[[129]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSDelight-143) An old cultivar, this compact plant was introduced before 1902. The flower heads are 13 mm diameter with white reflexed rays and creamy-yellow disks, and it reaches a height of 90 cm (3 ft).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 103

**'Golden Rain'** is listed as a cultivar of *S. lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum* and is without description in the RHS Plant Finder as of February 2021.[[130]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSGoldenRain-144) Picton lists it as a cultivar of *A. vimineus* "with creamy-white ray florets and deep yellow disks" that was introduced around 1910 by H.J. Jones from his [Lewisham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewisham" \o "Lewisham) nursery. It reaches a height of 45 cm (1+1⁄2 ft).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 144

**'Jan'**,[[131]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSJan-145) introduced in 1992, has large flower heads for a cultivar of this species at 30 mm diameter. Reaching a height of 80–100 cm (2+1⁄2–3+1⁄4 ft), it has green leaves with white and lilac blooms.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 104

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:134-49_Aster_lateriflorus_var._horizontalis_%27Lady_in_Black%27.jpg)

'Lady in Black'

**'Lady in Black'** was introduced in 1991.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 104 It has bronze and dark purple leaves with flowers that have white rays and "rosy-pink" centers. It reaches a height of 100–150 cm (3+1⁄4–5 ft) and width of 50–100 cm (1+3⁄4–3+1⁄4 ft) in 2–5 years, and is hardy to RHS H7.[[132]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSLadyInBlack-146)

**'Lovely'** is listed in the RHS Plant Finder as of June 2021.[[133]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSLovely-147)

**'Orphir'** is listed as a cultivar of *S. lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum* and is without description in the RHS Plant Finder as of February 2021.[[134]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSOrphir-148) Picton lists it as a cultivar of *A. vimineus* dating to as early as 1910.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 144

**'Prince'**,[[135]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSPrince-149) introduced circa 1970, is compact at a height of 60 cm (2 ft). It has dark purple foliage with 13 mm diameter flower heads.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 104

**'Prince Charming'** is listed as a cultivar of *S. lateriflorum* var. *lateriflorum* and is without description in the RHS Plant Finder as of June 2021.[[136]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSPrinceCharming-150) Picton lists 'Prince Charming' as a cultivar of *A. vimineus* dating to as early as 1910.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-Picton1999-16): 144

**'Rubrifolius'** was last listed in the 2001 RHS Plant Finder.[[137]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-RHSRubrifolius-151) Translated from Latin, *rubri folium* means *red leaf* or *red foliage*. No information was readily available about this cultivar as of January 2021.

**'Valentin'** is described in the Dutch magazine *TUINSeizoen* as a cultivar with white to pale lilac flowers that bloom September–November, with an adult height of about 76 cm (2+1⁄2 ft). It is hardy to −30 °C (−22 °F) and does best in an open sunny location with well-drained moderately fertile and moist soil.[[138]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphyotrichum_lateriflorum#cite_note-TUINSeizoenValentin-152)