



Bloom Guide October



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Goldenrod, *Solidago* sp. Often a difficult genus to differentiate. Goldenrods (*Solidago*) are typically comprised of a cluster of yellow flowers that bloom in the fall. These late blooming beauties are a critical food source for over 100 species of butterflies and moths, as well as countless bees, wasps, beetles, flies and other pollinators. Find over 10 different species of goldenrod throughout the Preserve particularly in the meadow, around both ponds and in the Visitor Center garden.



Closed Gentian *Gentiana andrewsii*. This slow growing, but long-lived perennial grows in moist shady areas of the Preserve. The bright blue tubular flowers remain closed, inviting only bumblebees to visit since they are the only insect strong enough to pry open the corolla. The leaves and stems of gentian are bitter and therefore not attractive to herbivores, but deer may nip the young tips before the plant flowers. This may cause the central stem to branch. Find Closed Gentian at Founders Pond and in the meadow.



White Snakeroot *Ageratina altissima* This common fall bloomer has opposite triangular-shaped leaves and white fluffy flowers that form a flat top. You may see gray squiggly lines on the leaves which can be used as a good identification tool. These lines are made by a leaf miner called *Liriomyza eupatoriella* that specialize in White Snakeroot. Find White Snakeroot throughout the Preserve particularly along President's Drive.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

New England Aster *Aster novae-angliae*. The deep purple ray flowers offset the orange-yellow disk flowers of this late season bloomer. A wonderful plant for pollinators, New England Aster is just one of many purple-pink members of this large family. A good diagnostic feature are the leaves which clasp the stem. Look for New England Aster in the meadow, Visitor Center garden and new pond.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Frost Aster *Symphotrichum pilosum*. The tiny flowers form a mass of white lace on this lovely native. Yellow disk flowers fade to dark pink or red after pollination signaling foraging bees to find a different source of food. The branching stems and leaves are both hairy resembling frost, hence the common name. Large amounts of pollen and nectar make this a favorite among small butterflies, bees, and flies. Find Frost Aster in the meadow and along President's Drive.



Photo by Mary Anne Borge

Blue Wood Aster *Symphotrichum cordifolius* Among the asters, this is one of the showiest. The pale purple ray flowers look almost electric when put against the dark green heart-shaped foliage. As with many in this genus, the showy ray flowers we often call petals are sterile and used to attract pollinators. It is the yellow disk flowers in the center that contain the nectar and pollen. Find Blue Wood Aster in the meadow, Visitor Center Garden, along President's Drive and around the new pond.