Hoary Aster (*Dieteria canescens*, a.k.a *Machaeranthera canescens*)

**Aster Family**

**Why Choose It?**

Hoary Aster’s cheerful purple daisies flower late in the season, and ease the garden into winter. This herbaceous gray-leaved charmer is drought tolerant and versatile, and grows well in sunny and rocky sites.

![Photo: Richard Old](image)

**In the Garden**

Hoary Aster will blend well in a dry perennial border or in the crevices of a rock garden. Deer will pretty much leave it alone, so it’s a fine choice for a wildland garden. All those daisies provide nectar for bees and butterflies, including the Mariposa Copper.

**The Facts**

Hoary Aster is a fast-growing plant, reaching one to three feet tall, or shorter where it’s really dry. Usually it’s a biennial, meaning it will flower and die its second season, but often it lasts a few years more. Hoary Aster frequently reseeds in place, giving its purple daisies to the garden with both permanence and serendipity.

**Where to See It**

Look for Hoary Aster in dry, open places. Most common on lower elevation plains and foothills, it can also be seen up in the mountains.
And, hey, who you calling “hoary”?  

Hoary refers to the grayish hairs that cover the plant, making it look, at times, covered with hoarfrost.

You can find out more information about native plants, including where to buy them, from the Washington Native Plant Society.

www.wnps.org
206-527-3210 or 1-888-288-8022

Native Plant Spotlights
Adapted from writing by Sarah Gage
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