

Weekly Wild Wednesday

September 27th, 2023

What a Week of "Collecting and Color!"



We are constantly on the lookout for Nature's examples that we can add to our landscapes! This Fall, the Heath Aster has had the BEST year! It is blooming in public gardens, on roadsides, in the prairies, and in our personal gardens!

← Dotty and Bill's driveway has these gorgeous daisy like white blooms mixed with the many purples of Fall- and it is a STUNNING combination! We think that purple might be an Aromatic Aster?



On Ridge Road in the Siouxland area there were MANY dense stands of Heath Aster—absolutely abuzz with pollinators! If you see one of these beautiful clumps of white, safely stop, listen, and look for the LIFE they are sustaining! We are adding MANY MORE Of these to our Urban Gardens next year!! Grow Heath Asters!



← This tiny Heath Aster in the competition of the prairie is more like the size and shape we are used to seeing!

What a difference

location makes with Native plants! The whole plant is the size of a coffee mug!

← Click for a short synopsis of this aster! Or download this HUGE PDF with color photos of the many Roadside Native Plants of Iowa and take a road trip! →



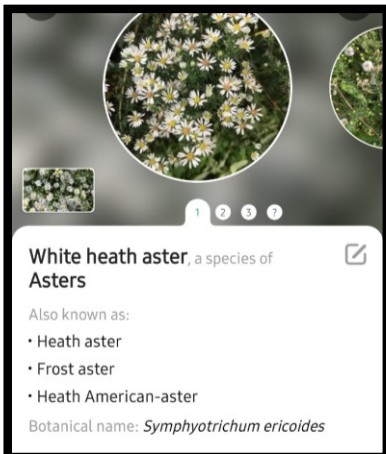
Iowa Department of Transportation (.gov)

[https://www.iowadot.gov > pl...](https://www.iowadot.gov/pl...) PDF

Iowa's Roadside Plants

Iowa was predominantly prairie, with 85 percent of the state covered by more than 300 species of grasses...

133 pages · 1 MB



Complete Guide To Sneezeweed (Helenium Autumnale)

For a showy late-blooming native flower that bridges the gap from Summer to Fall, look no further than Sneezeweed. This lovely plant makes a gorgeous yellow display that blooms after the main summer flowers have finished, and before to coinciding with Asters. I've successfully grown this plant for several years and will share what I've learned with you.



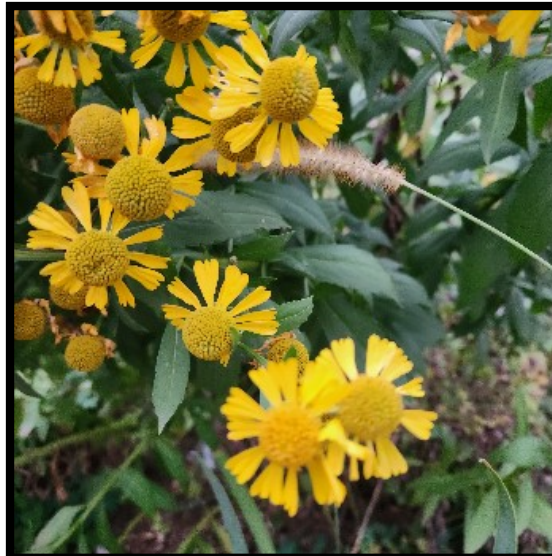
Below, Goldenrod is COVERED in pollinators right now! We counted over 12 unique pollinators on a single plume!

Sneezeweed that does NOT make you sneeze! We like to call this gorgeous and unique plant Helen's Flower or Helenia! It sounds so much better to us, haha!

At The Wild Mess in Progress, it is a mix of blooms and ready to harvest seeds! On purpose! If you do NOT want seeds, and want this gorgeous plant to bloom through until frost, deadhead the blossoms regularly! The

seeds are ready when you gently squeeze the brown, dry seed head and it falls off into your container. It does not take long to have a LOT of seed! We will be sharing this seed liberally at the November 12th Potluck, Annual Meeting, and Seed Share from

2-4PM at the Sioux City Public Museum! Please join us! We will have plenty of food-- and seeds-- to SHARE!



White, Yellow, and Purple seem to be the dominant colors this Fall in Iowa!

The white Snow-on-the-Mountain is going to seed as well, not quite ready yet!

We will check it daily!



Upcoming Events

- [Members Only Seed Harvest at Flathers-Wetmore Prairie](#)
Oct 8th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- [Annual Meeting, Potluck, and Seed Share!](#)
Nov 12th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- [Hand's On Winter Sowing Plant and Take](#)
Jan 14th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

← Click for website details of Upcoming Events!

Mark your calendars!

Please join us!



Xerces shared this 1 hour webinar on Fall Gardening for Pollinators!

Click for link! →

Great for a rainy afternoon!

If you are in Omaha September 30th, check out this Lawn to Life in person set of classes from Mulhalls!
← Click for details! They also have all Native plants 30% off!

And we are planning to check out this Prairie Seed Processing Day on Sunday November 5th!

Thanks, Golden Hills!

Click photo for ALL the Fall Fun coming up! →

PRAIRIE SEED PROCESSING DAY

MULLEIN HILL FARM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 1-4PM
2024 HILLSIDE AVENUE
MONDAMIN, IA 51557

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- FARM TOUR
- PRAIRIE SEED SAVING DEMOS
- HANDS-ON PROCESSING
- FOOD

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ALL AGES WELCOME.

[GOLDENHILLSRCCD.ORG/PRAIRIESEED](https://goldenhillsrccd.org/prairieseed)

GOLDEN HILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Mullein Hill Farm

CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS

Wishing you a week filled with "Collecting and Color!"



Wild Ones[®]

NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

LOESS HILLS

