

Calico Aster

Many years ago, someone looked at the flowers we call asters. We don't know his thoughts at that moment, but we can imagine they must have been something like this:

"Why, those flowers remind me of stars; Their blossoms look as though they were sending out rays. Wouldn't it be a good idea to take aster, the Greek word for star, and give it to the plants?"



©1951 National Wildlife Federation
Calico Aster

The name stuck, and today it belongs to one of our largest families of flowers. There are more than 250 kinds of asters on our continent alone. Some are tall and some are short. Some look ragged and some neat. There are asters with blossoms under a half inch in diameter and others whose flowers are two inches across.

Most of the plants belonging to the aster tribe grow in the eastern and central United States. Only a few varieties are found in the far west.

One of the eastern members of the family is the Calico Aster. The National Wildlife Federation reports that it thrives from New England west to the Dakotas and south to Texas and Louisiana.

It is at its best in dry, open fields, but it also grows along thickets in thin woodlands. Where there is not too much moisture and shade, the Calico Aster stands a foot or more in height.

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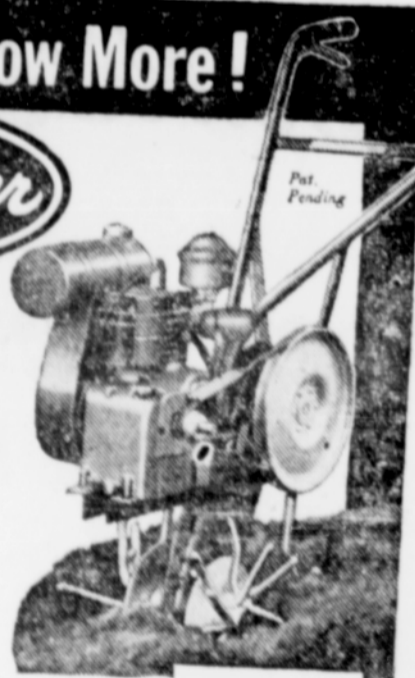
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Local News Happenings About Folks You Know

Mrs. Estes Morton left last Thursday for Salem where she will arrange for moving their household effects to Brookings. Mr. Morton will be president of Oregon State Bank, to open here about May 1.

Ex-Gov. Charles Sprague Salem, and Mrs. Sprague, were visitors here briefly last Wednesday evening at the Chetco Inn. En route to California, they expect to return this way some time this week. Mr. Sprague is publisher of the Salem Statesman.

Mrs. Viola Ramalia, who will be a write-in candidate for office of County Clerk, and Mrs. George Mateer, of Gold Beach, were last Thursday visitors in this area. Mrs. Ramalia's late husband was an auto victim late in December near the Rogue River bridge as he and three companions were returning from a lumber trip to Ophir.

Sgt. Peter Grootendorst, stationed in Kentucky with the paratroopers, arrived late last week, only to find his parents away at San Francisco on a business trip. Due to the telephone strike, he hadn't at the time this paper went to press, able to locate them. He is due back at camp Friday night. He expects to be stationed at Fairbanks, Alaska, for a few months.

Here and there are a few which grow to be five feet tall.

With many straggling banches, the Calico Aster is a bushy plant. The main stem is smooth, while the branches are covered with down. The long, lance-shaped leaves are slightly rough.

Toward the end of the summer, the plant wears its small blossoms. They open up in time to please the last tourists of August, and they stay to welcome the nippy days of October.

Each blossom is from a fourth to a half inch in diameter and has many slender rays. Most of the flowers are white, but a few are pale lilac. Perhaps it is because they are so small and light in color that the plant is sometimes known as the Starved Aster. But according to the National Wildlife Federation, the true name is Calico Aster.

Clarence H. Young, vice-president of Curry County Bank, Gold Beach, was a brief visitor in this area Friday. He conferred with Estes Morton, of Oregon State Bank, which will rent the Curry County Bank building.

Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Hastings have returned from Portland after spending the winter months there.

The next in the series of card parties being given by the Grange will be held this Saturday, April 19, at 8 p. m. at the Grange hall.

Another of those parties—for members and adult eligible kin, Masonic and/or Satellite Social Club, 8 p. m. Saturday, April 18 at the V. F. W. hall, Brookings. No pot luck. Games, visiting, bingo, dancing, snack. Proceeds (if any) to temple fund. Sojourning members especially welcome. If you miss it, you and we will be sorry.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schaal and Mrs. Rose Poole drove to Klamath Falls to take in the annual Barbership Parade at that city, Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Howie took the Schaals to Crater Lake Sunday. They report that the snow was

35 feet deep in places at the rim. Mr. and Mrs. Schaal returned on Monday while Mrs. Pool remained for a longer visit with her daughter.

"Smith-Corona" Typewriters at the Pilot Office.

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