

SEPTEMBER 1- 14, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

**NEW ENGLAND ASTER**



**New England Aster, *Aster nova-angliae*,**

© Dick Harlow

The late flowering aster, New England Aster, is such a joy to see as it begins to bloom at the end of August. The pinks, lavenders and blues along with the yellows of goldenrod gives us some amazing color as fall begins. New England Aster will continue to bloom through late September into early October.



**New England Aster, *Aster nova-angliae*,**

© Dick Harlow

At this time of year, it is such a pleasure to have such striking color bursting out from not only gardens, but also from meadows, thickets and stream banks. The aster will grow from three to six feet tall and is fairly upright with full growth. I do have New England Aster in the garden that has not always been upright, but at least it does try to be!

Some may ask is this plant invasive. According to the internet, it is not. Moreover, if we were to look around our landscape, we would not see large fields of New England Aster, a sign it is not an invasive plant!

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**New England Aster**, *Aster nova-angliae*,  
© Dick Harlow

**GOLDENROD**



**Goldenrod** species, *Solidago* genus,  
© Dick Harlow

At this time of the year the field/meadow across from Deer Meadow Drive comes alive with yellow flowering species of goldenrod. Goldenrod because of its splash of color at the same time that Ragweed is in bloom seems to get maligned as the culprit by hay-fever sufferers. But in fact, it is Ragweed, not Goldenrod that causes the sneezing fits in humans.

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**Goldenrod** species, *Solidago* genus, mostly  
Rough-stemmed Goldenrod, *Solidago rugosa*  
© Dick Harlow

In New England there are greater than 20 species of goldenrod and over 100 species in North America.



**Goldenrod** species, *Solidago rugosa* flowers,  
© Dick Harlow

In Vermont there are 11 species of Goldenrod that are sold commercially; most are considered hybrids. Most of these species also grow natively throughout the landscape. The most popular are 'Golden Fleece' and 'Fireworks.' 'Fireworks' is a hybrid of Rough-stemmed Goldenrod.



**Goldenrod** species, close-up of *Solidago rugosa*  
flowers. © Dick Harlow

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Sunset at EastView, September 7, 2020, © Dick Harlow

The color of the picture above shows the affect from all the fires in the West, those reds and pinks from fire, smoke and debris in the air.

**OBSERVATIONS**

**MAMMALS**

- **Coywolves**
- **Gray Squirrel**
- **Eastern Cottontail Rabbit**
- **Meadow Vole**

**REPTILES**

- **Garter Snakes**

**AMPHIBIANS**

- **Leopard Frog**
- **American Bull Frog**

**BUTTERFLIES**

- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- Cabbage White
- Clouded Sulphur
- Orange Sulphur
- Pearl Crescent
- Viceroy

**Weather Tidbits**

**Month of SEPTEMBER 01-30, 2020**

*[All Measurements taken at solar noon \(1230 EST\).](#)*

**PRECIPITATION**

**Average September Precipitation for Middlebury = 3.62 inches.**

**Last Two Weeks Precipitation = 7.6 mm or 0.3 inches. A two-week draught.**

**Overcast Days: 6**