

Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

Fact Sheet: Showy Fleabane, Aspen Fleabane

Scientific name: *Erigeron speciosus* (Lindl.) DC.



Showy fleabane was one of nine plant species used in research evaluating native perennial wildflower plantings for supporting wild bees and improving crop pollination on farmlands in Montana.

Family: Asteraceae

Life cycle: perennial

Growth habit: forb/herb, subshrub

Flower color: light purple ray flowers, yellow disc flowers

Flower shape: disk-shaped flowers

Foliage: medium green, narrowly lance-shaped leaves

Height: 1-3 feet

Bloom period: June-August

Habitat: Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including meadows, grasslands, woodlands, rocky slopes, prairies, and open forests. Found from low to high elevations.

Growing conditions: full to part sun; dry to moist well-drained soil; tolerates a variety of soil types; drought tolerant once established.

Establishment: Seed does not require any pre-treatment to break dormancy. For this project, we grew plants from seed in the greenhouse and transplanted them to the field as plugs in Spring. Plants did not flower during the year they were planted, but did so abundantly the following two years. Overwintering success was high on all farms. Seed collecting was easy and seed matured almost simultaneously. Plants readily self-seeded.

For more information on native plants: Visit the USDA-NRCS PLANTS database or the Montana Native Plant Society website.

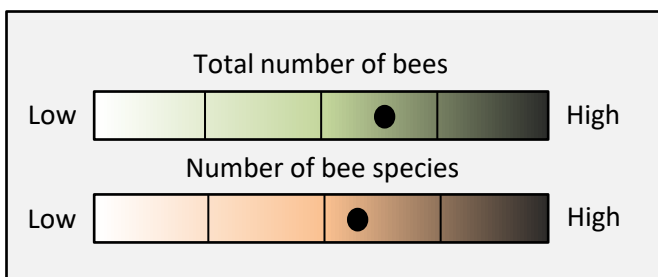


Photo: C.M. Delphia

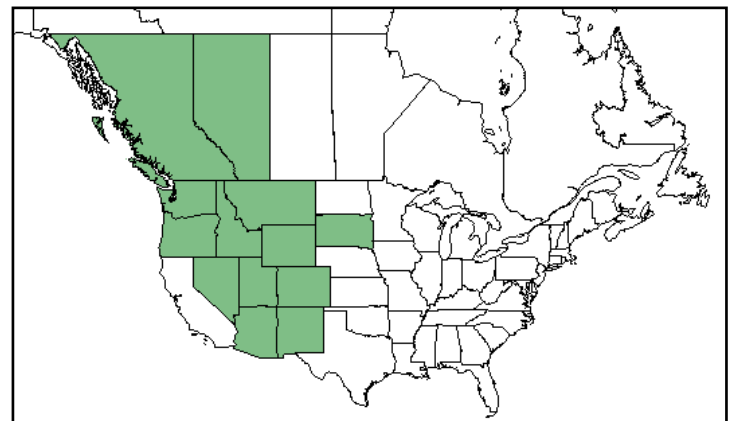


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Bee visitation: Bumble bees, medium and small mining bees, green sweat bees, banded sweat bees, small dark sweat bees, small carpenter bees, cellophane bees, mason bees, leafcutting bees, resin bees, masked bees, long-horned bees, and cuckoo bees.



Relative attractiveness of *E. speciosus* across farms over 2 years.



Erigeron speciosus distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database