

Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

Fact Sheet: Hairy False Golden Aster

Scientific name: *Heterotheca villosa* (Pursh) Shinnery



Hairy false golden aster 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: bright yellow ray and disk flowers

Flower shape: disk-shaped flowers

Foliage: dull, gray-green, hairy, narrow, oblong leaves

Height: 6-12 inches

Bloom period: June-September

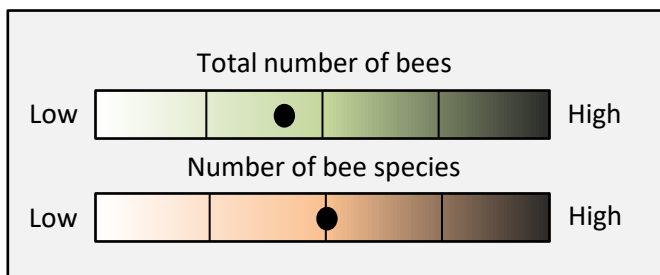
Habitat: Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including grasslands, woodlands, meadows, plains, prairies, rocky slopes, fields, roadsides, and disturbed sites. Found from low to high elevations.

Growing conditions: full sun; dry well-drained soil; gravelly and sandy soils; drought tolerant once established; great for rock gardens.

Establishment: Seed does not require 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 flowered some during the year they were planted, and abundantly so the following two years. Overwintering success was moderate to high depending on the farm. Seed collecting was easy and plants produced abundant seed. Plants readily self-seeded.

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

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



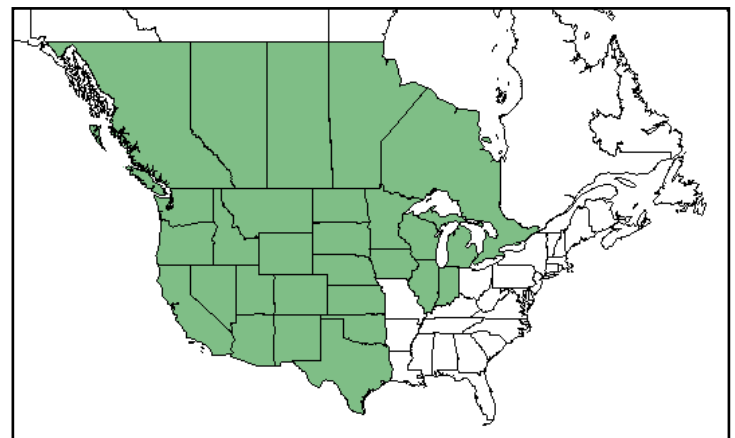
Relative attractiveness of *H. villosa* across farms over 2 years.



Photo: C.M. Delphia



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Heterotheca villosa distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database