

"Perennial Pairings" from Jeanne Nevard, September 9, 2015.

I am selecting plants that bloom around the same time, share similar light needs and soil conditions and look good together. For September, I have chosen a pair that is in bloom now. The Japanese anemone, and the wild aster.

JAPANESE ANEMONE- HUPHENSIS

- full sun to part shade
- 3-5 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide
- blooms mid- August to late September
- tolerates average to good soils
- 5 petaled flower in pink or white, long airy flower stems rise 6-12 inches above the foliage
- excellent bee and insect pollinator plant
- allow a lot of room, spreads by tuberous roots
- best to plant in area dedicated for these two
- The Japanese anemone was sent back to England in 1844, by famous plant collector, Robert Fortune, from China. This plant adorned the tombs in the Orient and he called them " the most appropriate ornament for the last resting places of the dead". They are a symbol of hope and resurrection.



ASTER: WOOD- ASTER DIVARICATUS, NEW YORK, AND OTHER VARIETIES

- full sun to part shade
- 2-4 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide
- blooms September to October
- tolerates average, poor to humus soils
- fine petaled daisy ray flower, when center turns brown, the bee sees that there is no pollen there
- multi-branched, heavy flowering
- white to rose pink natives, and lavender, dark purples to hot pink cultivars
- excellent native pollinator plant
- An old Greek legend states that the aster was fashioned out of stardust when Virgo, gazing down upon the black night above the warring earth, sadly wept, spreading the soft white specks. Thus, it is the flower of September.

These two perennials provide much-needed pollen to insects later in the season.
Native goldenrod is also a good choice as a fall, pollinator plant.
Photo is of the Japanese anemone and white wood aster.