

Aster azureus

SKY-BLUE ASTER (Composite Family)

in the **Peacock Prairie** at the **James Woodworth Prairie Preserve**



This native perennial plant is 1½–3' tall (46-91 cm), and largely unbranched except at the inflorescence. Near the base leaves have long narrow petioles. As the leaves alternate upward along the stem, they become greatly reduced in size and more narrow. The inflorescence is a large panicle of compound flowers that are daisy-like in appearance. The compound flowers are about ½" across. They consist of about 10-25 lavender or light blue ray florets, which surround numerous disk florets that are initially yellow, but later turn red or brown. The compound flowers are subtended by numerous bracts that are ciliate and form small green diamonds. The blooming period occurs from late summer to fall, and lasts about 1-2 months. Later, achenes develop with small tufts of hair, which are dispersed by the wind. At the Peacock/Woodworth Prairie blooms about the 1st week of September through the 1st week of October.

