Bushy aster is a pretty wildflower which needs almost no care. This herbaceous perennial is delicate in appearance and will fit into a landscape along most any border. Bushy aster, *Aster dumosus* L., is in the aster or Sunflower Family (Asteraceae). Aster is a Greek word meaning “a star,” alluding to the heads of flowers. *Dumosus* simply means bushy. The habit of growth is much branched and spreading, or sometimes quite strict.

Foliage is very narrow, long, and spreading on the lower parts of the plant. At the top the leaves become short and blunt. The upper ends of all the branches and the stalks under the flowers are covered with many of these short leaves which are all about the same size. Some plants have so many of these small leaves on the slender stems that they are wispy in appearance.

The flowers are in heads or clusters surrounded by what appear to be clusters of the same small leaves that are on the upper stem. The leaves (bracts) have a green stripe down the center bordered by white or light brown. There are actually two types of flowers in these heads which are all about the same size. Some plants have so many of these small leaves on the slender stems that they are wispy in appearance.

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