

PERENNIAL SALTMARSH ASTER

Aster tenuifolius

Located along saline or brackish shores and marshes throughout the Division.

A perennial plant spreading by runners. Stems hairless, sparingly branched, curving alternately in opposite directions; 15 to 60 cm high; arising from the tips of last year's runners. Stem leaves are alternate, few in number, narrow, pointed, fleshy and toothless, 5 to 15 cm long, attached directly to or partly clasping the stem. Branch leaves are minute and pressed close to stem. The flower heads are relatively few, 1 to 3 cm wide and located on the ends of the branches; rays are numerous, pale purple, or nearly white; blooming from late August through October.

The seeds and leaves may be used for food by birds and small mammals. Food value is limited.





Notes