



2018 Native Perennial of the Year



Amsonia tabernaemontana Eastern bluestar

The powder-blue flowers set above shrubby foliage brighten the spring garden and serve as a nectar source and host plant for several types of pollinators. In fall, the leaf turns a striking golden-yellow color.

Hardiness: Zones 4–9
Light: Sun to part shade
Soil: Moist to average
Size: 2–3' tall
Foliage: Green, ovate; clump-forming
Flowers: Star-shaped, powder-blue
Bloom Time: Spring
Wildlife Value: Nectar for hummingbirds and various long-tongued pollinators, including native bees, hummingbird moths, butterflies. A member of the dogbane family, its characteristic milky sap makes it resistant to deer, rabbits, and groundhogs.



Photos: George H. Bruso, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (top); Hal Horwitz, New England Wild Flower Society