ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE)

*Aster conspicuus* Lindl.

Asco

showy aster

FORM: Stout, deciduous, perennial, 3-10 dm (12-39 in) tall; from creeping rhizomes.

LEAVES: Alternate, sharply toothed, thick and firm with a sandpaper feel, sessile, ovate-elliptic, 6-18 cm (2-7 in) long; leaf shape and texture are unique for northern Idaho *Aster* species (1); lower leaves smaller, obovate and soon deciduous.

FLOWERS: Ray mostly 12-35, blue or violet, 10-15 mm long; heads few to many in open, densely glandular inflorescence, involucral bracts with acuminate, green tip; July-Sept.

FRUIT: Achene.

NOTES: Most common *Aster* species in forested areas, however, it seldom flowers in natural forested stands.