## Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

## Fact Sheet: Showy Fleabane, Aspen Fleabane

Scientific name: Erigeron speciosus (Lindl.) DC.



Showy fleabane was one of nine plant species used in research evaluating native perennial wildflower plantings for supporting wild bees and improving crop pollination on farmlands in Montana.

Family: Asteraceae Life cycle: perennial Growth habit: forb/herb, subshrub

Flower color: light purple ray flowers, yellow disc flowers Flower shape: disk-shaped flowers Foliage: medium green, narrowly lance-shaped leaves Height: 1-3 feet Bloom period: June-August

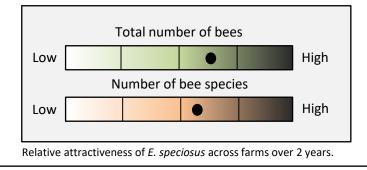
**Habitat:** Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including meadows, grasslands, woodlands, rocky slopes, prairies, and open forests. Found from low to high elevations.

**Growing conditions:** full to part sun; dry to moist well-drained soil; tolerates a variety of soil types; drought tolerant once established.

**Establishment:** Seed does not require any pre-treatment to break dormancy. For this project, we grew plants from seed in the greenhouse and transplanted them to the field as plugs in Spring. Plants did not flower during the year they were planted, but did so abundantly the following two years. Overwintering success was high on all farms. Seed collecting was easy and seed matured almost simultaneously. Plants readily self-seeded.

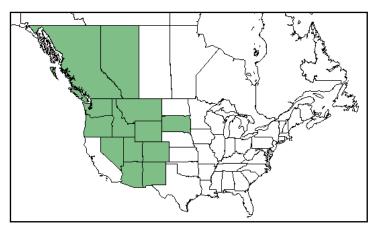
**For more information on native plants:** Visit the USDA-NRCS PLANTS database or the Montana Native Plant Society website.

**Bee visitation:** Bumble bees, medium and small mining bees, green sweat bees, banded sweat bees, small dark sweat bees, small carpenter bees, cellophane bees, mason bees, leafcutting bees, resin bees, masked bees, long-horned bees, and cuckoo bees.









Erigeron speciosus distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

By: Casey M. Delphia<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura A. Burkle<sup>1</sup>, and Kevin M. O'Neill<sup>2</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Departments of Ecology and <sup>2</sup>Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Montana State University. This project was supported by the USDA Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program.

