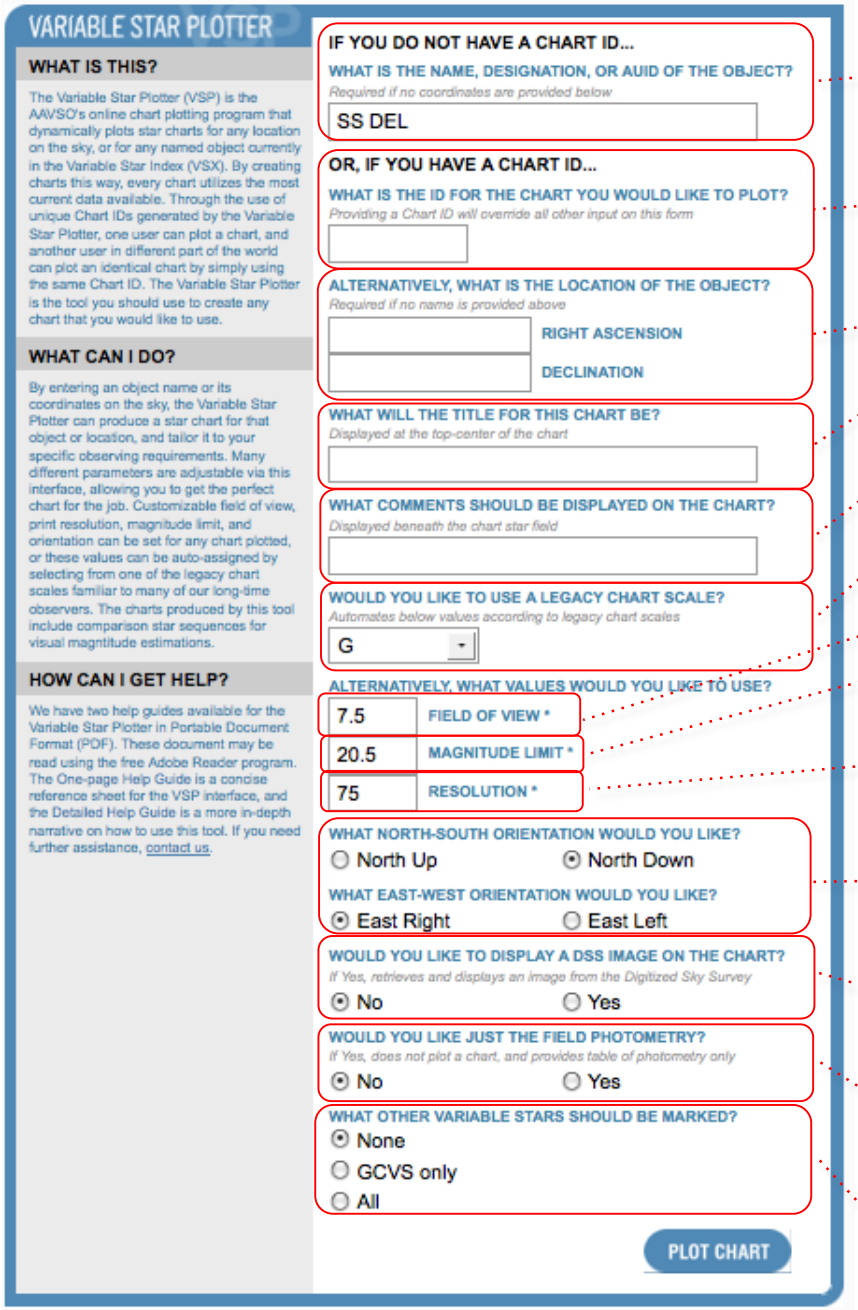
A Quick Guide to the Variable Star Plotter



If you know the star's name, type it here. Search vsx.aavso.org for a list of all stars known to VSP.

Every chart is plotted with a **chart id** in the upper right hand corner. This should be reported with your variable star observation. If you would like to replot a lost chart, just type in the chart id here and the chart will be replicated using all the settings you used to plot it the first time. This can also be used to see what charts other people are using to make their own observations.

If you do not know the star's name you can use a set of celestial coordinates in epoch 2000.

The title is a word or phrase you'd like displayed at the top of the chart. If left blank, what you placed in the *name* field will be used.

What you type in here will be printed at the bottom of the chart.

If you are familiar with the older AAVSO charts, then you can use this setting to replicate their dimensions. In general, charts become smaller as the letters increase.

This is the chart's field of view in arc minutes.

This is the limiting magnitude for the field, stars fainter than this will not be plotted.

This refers to the size of the chart as seen on your computer screen. A resolution of 75 dpi is the default value for most web pages. Higher resolution will give you better quality, but larger images that may be too large to fit on a printed page.

This is where you set the orientation of the field to match what you see in the eyepiece.

By default, a black and white chart will be drawn with circles representing stars. If you would prefer to have a real picture of the sky instead, choose this and a picture from the Digitized Sky Survey will be plotted instead.

If you are a CCD or PEP observer, you may want access to precise photometry of the comparison stars. Check this box to plot a table of multicolor photometry instead of a star chart.

Sometimes, more than one variable star can be found within a field. If you would like these other variables shown on the chart, check these boxes. GCVS variables tend to be the more well known variables. If you check *all* you will also get many new and suspected variable stars. The field could get crowded!