

Goldenrods in Missouri

- http://www.missouriplants.com/Yellowalt/Yellow_flowers_alternate_page6.html
- <http://www.easywildflowers.com/Seeds.htm>
- <http://mowildflowers.net/plants/wildflowers.html>

Goldenrod plants make a large contribution to the fall nectar flow. There are approx. 16 different goldenrods species found in Missouri; none of them cause hay fever.

“aggressive” species { *Solidago altissima* (**tall**) is the most common goldenrod in Missouri. This species is in the group of tall Goldenrods which includes other similar species like *S. gigantea* (**great goldenrod**) and *S. canadensis* (**Canadian goldenrod**). These all have have no basal rosettes at anthesis and have leaves which are largest in the central portion of the stem but are typically all similar in size. **(I would not plant these 3 species in a garden, they spread through rhizomes...)**

Solidago speciosa (**Showy Goldenrod**) is one of the prettiest and best wildflowers for the butterfly flower garden or meadow. It forms tight clumps of leafy, red-tinged stems crowned with dense, elongated yellow flower clusters. *Solidago speciosa*'s bright yellow flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and Goldfinches and other small songbirds feed on its seeds. Grow Showy Goldenrod in full sun to light shade and well drained sandy or loamy garden soil.

Solidago rigida (**stiff-leaved goldenrod**) has larger flowerheads than any other *Solidago* species in Missouri. This is a characteristic plant of prairies and is certainly worthy of cultivation as it is drought tolerant and requires little care. The leaves have a scratchy feel; its equal to the feel of P600 grit sandpaper. Bright yellow flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds, Goldfinches, and other small birds feed on its seeds.

Solidago drummondii (**Cliff goldenrod**) is a short erect native wildflower that grows 18 to 36 inches tall. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates poor, dry soils and light shade, but performs best in full sun. This species is primarily clump-forming and does not spread invasively.

Solidago flexicaulis (**broad-leaved**), *Solidago caesia* (Blue stemmed or **Zig-Zag goldenrod**) & *Solidago petiolaris* (Downy ragged or **woodland**) like sun-dappled shade.

Other goldenrod species found in Missouri are *Solidago juncea* (**early goldenrod**, not weedy), *Solidago nemoralis* (field or **Gray goldenrod**, a shorter species), *Solidago radula* (**western rough**), *Solidago rugosa* (**rough stemmed goldenrod**), *Solidago graminifolia* (**Grassleaved**), *Solidago riddellii* (**Riddell's**, good plant for rain gardens), & *Solidago ptarmicoides* (**white upland aster**, flowers look like an aster.. classified as a goldenrod, well behaved plant).



Tall goldenrod. Most common in Mo. An aggressive species. Notice the colony of plants



Stiff-leaved goldenrod (notice the flying bee on the right)