

STIFF GOLDENROD

Oligoneuron rigidum (L.)

Small var. *rigidum*

plant symbol = OLRIR

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Elsberry Plant
Materials Center

Alternate Names

Solidago rigida L., rigid goldenrod

Uses

Stiff goldenrod can be used for roadside plantings, wildlife food and habitat, and wildflower gardens because of its attractive bright yellow flowers, and as a small component of seeding mixtures for prairie restoration.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

Stiff goldenrod is a native perennial recognized by its broad, flat-topped inflorescence (cluster of flowers). The plant is a member of the Asteraceae, or aster family. It attains a height of over one meter. It flowers during the fall. The goldenrod flowers are like miniature asters and are all yellow. They are arranged in an inflorescence which is about 15 cm across and flat across the top. The leaves of goldenrod are stiff, rough textured and are alternately arranged on the stem. The leaves on the lower part of the plant are oblong and have short petioles. The upper leaves are lance-shaped and stalkless; there are also longer basal leaves that overwinter.

Stiff goldenrod is more palatable than other members of the goldenrod group but is still infrequently grazed. It behaves in a prairie as an invader, i.e. it tends to come into pastures in greater amount when the prairie has been weakened by grazing.

Adaptation and Distribution

Goldenrod grows in prairies and dry woods from Massachusetts to Saskatchewan, south to Texas and Georgia.

For a current distribution map, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Website.

Establishment

Prepare a clean weed free seedbed by disking and harrowing. Firm the seedbed by cultipacking. The seedbed should be firm enough to allow the seed to be planted ¼ inch deep. A seeder with a legume box works well in the seeding operation, although other types of seeders or drills may be used. Stiff goldenrod is easily propagated from seed. Seed sown in spring will produce transplants in one season. For permanent plantings, use transplants in fall or spring. Plants are largely cross-pollinated.

Fertilizer: Apply no fertilizer during the establishment year unless soil test indicates a severe deficiency of potassium and/or phosphorus. Use no nitrogen during the establishment year as this can encourage weed competition.

Seeding Rates: Adequate seeding rates for stiff goldenrod should be about ¼ pound of pure live seed (PLS) in a mixture. One pound (PLS) per acre is sufficient for seed production plantings. There are approximately 770,000 clean seeds in one pound of stiff goldenrod.

Seeding Dates: Sow unstratified seed in the fall, November to March, stratified seed in the spring, April to May.

Management

Reduce weed competition by mowing at a height that will not affect the goldenrod seedlings. For grassy weed control use Poast herbicide and follow label recommendations, as herbicide weed control will encourage a good stand. **Note: This herbicide product may not be registered on this forb species in your state. NRCS does not endorse the use of any product. The staff was aware of only this one product at the time of publication. There may be others available. Refer to product label for specific application information.**

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Northern Iowa Germplasm stiff goldenrod is a composite from northern Iowa released by the Elsberry, MO Plant Materials Center in 1998.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <<http://plants.usda.gov>> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>.

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