



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Solidago spp.

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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Common name
Goldenrod

Range

This is a large North American genus, with 21 species found in Texas. It is a difficult genus to identify because of rampant hybridization. Some species found in Texas include *Solidago nemoralis*, native to the Edwards and the Plains regions; *S. sempervirens*, native to coastal regions in the southeast; *S. odora*, found throughout the southeast.

Life cycle

Herbaceous perennial that forms underground rhizomes. Flower are golden pyramids from 3 - 9 inches.

Bloom period

Late summer - fall

Soil preference

Varies from sandy to clay soil, depending on the species. Seasonal poor drainage is fine.

Exposure

Full sun

Propagation

Division of the basal rosette is the most successful method of propagation. After flowers fade in late fall, cut back stalks to ground. Divide basal rosette in winter. Lift the entire rosette in order to separate the rhizomes. A mature plant may yield 30 to 40 divisions. A section from the edge of the clump can be obtained by using a trowel or spade if only a few new plants are desired.

Sow seeds densely in the fall. Seed requires a cold treatment prior to germination. Often germination is poor, and a critical period is soon reached in seedling development if transplanted from a flat or bed. If leaves remain in contact with the soil for extended periods, the seedling will probably rot. Sometimes this can be prevented by mounding soil around the seedling so that leaves are just above the soil.



Maintenance

Solidago spp. are ideally suited to neglected areas. Select a native species that will not take over your site. While some can be invasive, others form a neat clump. The best behaved are often the showiest.

During the summer growing season, many of the taller species may be pruned halfway back to produce thicker, more compact foliage and a shorter flowering plant. Pruning may also delay flowering up to one or two weeks.

Miscellaneous

Goldenrod is often accused of causing hay fever, but is not the culprit. The inconspicuous, greenish-flowered ragweed which flowers at the same time, is actually the cause. Because goldenrod is more visible and easier to recognize, it is frequently blamed.

It makes excellent cut flowers, particularly when long stemmed material is needed.