

BWSR Featured Plant

Plant Name: Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*)



Dense leaves near the top of the plant

As a major component of a wide range of plant communities in both northern and southern Minnesota, grass-leaved goldenrod plays an important ecological role. It has extensive rhizomes that stabilize streambanks and lakeshores and it also provides good pollinator habitat. In communities where it has ideal soils and moisture conditions it forms dense stands several feet in diameter. In communities with drier soils it may be scattered, coexisting with a diversity of other species. With rapid growth from rhizomes the species can be too aggressive for small raingardens or urban plantings but is well suited to wet meadow, wet prairie, floodplain forest, roadside, and shoreline restorations.

Wetland Indicator Status:

- NC&NW - FAC
- Great Plains - FAC
- Midwest - FACW

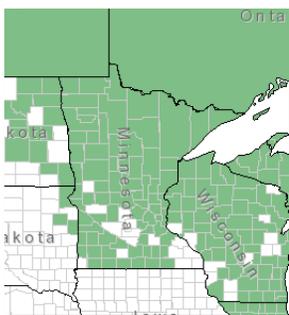


Individual leaves are narrow and have three primary veins

Identification

Plants are usually around two feet tall and may be in dense stands or scattered over large areas. The stems are greenish brown, relatively smooth, and have rows of small white hairs. The leaves are arranged alternately up the stem and are the most dense and bushy near the flowers at the top of the plant. The leaves are linear, lack teeth, and attach directly to the stem. They also have three noticeable veins running the length of the leaf. Small, tubular, yellow flowers are in somewhat rounded clusters of 20-40 flowers. They bloom in late summer to early fall for about a month. The species was in the genus "Solidago" but was separated out due to its narrow leaves, arrangement of its flowers and genetic data.

Range



Range based on University of MN Herbarium data.

The species is very widespread across Minnesota. It is found in forest openings, wet meadows, shorelines, and roadsides in northern Minnesota and in wet prairies, wet meadows, calcareous fens, shorelines, old fields, pastures and ditch banks in southern Minnesota. Across the U.S. it is found in most states except Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, and Texas. It is found in all southern provinces of Canada except Labrador.

Uses

Grass leaved goldenrod is used by a wide range of pollinator species including native bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles. It is also used as a food source by goldfinch, sparrows, rabbits, deer, and grasshoppers. It has extensive rhizomes that create an

Primary Uses:

- Pollinator Habitat
- Slope Stabilization
- Stormwater Filtration

interconnected network underground that can stabilize slopes. This network is also effective at slowing and filtering stormwater in ditches and swales.

Planting Recommendations

Planting Methods

- Seed
- Containerized plants
- Transplanting

The species can be planted by seed, containerized plants or by transplanting. Cold-moist stratification can be beneficial but is not essential prior to planting seeds in containers. When seeding into restoration projects it is recommended to seed in the fall, to allow winter conditions to naturally break dormancy and allow for germination when the conditions are suitable in the spring. The soil surface should be loosened prior to seeding and the tiny seeds (350,000 seeds per ounce) broadcast near the soil surface, followed by harrowing or rolling to improve seed to soil contact. When installed from containers the plants should be planted in moist soil and watered as needed until they develop sufficient root systems. The species can also be transplanted early in the spring or late in the fall after the plants go dormant. Transplanting is most effective when clumps of rhizomes and soil are moved to new locations where they can start spreading underground.



Dense clump of grass-leaved goldenrod in a wet prairie.

Similar Species



Riddell's Goldenrod (*Solidago riddellii*), left, has leaves that are grass-like but they roll inward and have sheaths around the stem on upper portions of the plant (photo by Peter M. Dziuk of Minnesota Wildflowers)



Great plains goldenrod (*Euthamia gymnospermoides*), left, is very similar but has one primary vein in each leaf instead of three, smaller flower clusters 10-20 flowers per cluster) and grow in drier habitats (photo by Peter M. Dziuk of Minnesota Wildflowers)

References

Minnesota Wildflowers: <http://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/grass-leaved-goldenrod>

Illinois Wildflowers: http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/gr_goldenrod.htm