

PLANTING GUIDE

Solidago rigida

Common Names:

rigid goldenrod
stiff goldenrod

Accession Number/Release:

9068617 – Zone 1, Northern Iowa Germplasm

Description:

Stiff goldenrod is a native perennial recognized by its broad, flat-topped inflorescence. The plant is a member of the *Compositae*, or aster family. It attains a height of over one meter. It flowers during the fall aspect. 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 lanceolate and are sessile; there are also longer basal leaves which overwinter.

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

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

Purpose: Stiff goldenrod can be used in the following situations: roadside plantings, wildlife food and habitat, wildflower gardens because of its attractive bright yellow flowers, and as a small component in a seeding mixture for prairie restoration.

Source: Seed of these collections of stiff goldenrod was collected from native stands throughout the northern counties of the state of Iowa.

Establishment: Prepare a clean weed free seedbed by disking and harrowing. Firm the seedbed by cultipacking. Seedbed should be firm enough to allow the seed to be planted 1/4 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 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 .25 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: These herbicide products 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.

4/27/00

References

Prairie Plants of Illinois; pp. 226-227; Voigt, John W. and Mohlenbrock, Robert H.; Both from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois.

The Prairie Garden, 70 Native Plants You Can Grow in Town or County; pp. 160-161, Smith, J. Robert and Smith, Beatrice S., University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin 1980.

Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie, The Upper Midwest, p. 243; Runkel, Sylvan T. and Roosa, Dean M., Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa 1989.

Flora of Missouri; p. 1498; Steyermark, Julian A., Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa 1963.

The Tall Grass Restoration Handbook; p. 131; Jordan, R. William III., Island Press, Washington, D. C./Covelo, California, 1997.

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