

Summary of Key Identification Points of Goldenrods

Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*)

- flowers: inflorescence flat-topped
- leaves: narrow, horizontal (grass-like)
- leaves: scented (crush to smell)
- leaves: often have large black spots
- stem: erect
- habitat: moist ground, fields
- common

Bog Goldenrod (*Solidago uliginosa*)

- flowers: inflorescence stems very erect, close to the main stem
- leaves: basal & lower stem leaves sheath the stem
- leaves: basal & lower: toothed
- leaves: upper - much smaller, entire (not toothed)
- stem: smooth, often red
- stem: erect
- habitat: bogs
- common in bogs

Ohio Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron ohioense*)

- flowers: inflorescence flat-topped
- leaves: flat stem leaves with one main vein
- stem: erect
- habitat: fens, bogs, moist ground
- similar to: Houghton's Goldenrod
- locally common

Houghton's Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron houghtonii*)

- flowers: heads larger than Ohio Goldenrod
- flowers: inflorescence has hairy stems compared with Ohio Goldenrod
- flowers: heads fewer than Ohio Goldenrod
- leaves: basal narrower than Ohio Goldenrod
- stem: erect
- similar to: Ohio Goldenrod
- very rare: only occurs on upper Bruce Peninsula & Manitoulin Island

Stout Goldenrod (*Solidago squarrosa*)

- flowers: heads moderate to large
- flowers: have spreading, recurved phyllaries (the bract-like things under the individual flowers)
- stem: erect
- uncommon in Ontario

Hairy Goldenrod (*Solidago hispida* var. *hispida*)

- flowers: small flowers in axils of small leafy bracts, right on the stem
- leaves: markedly hairy
- leaves: soft & velvety
- stem: markedly hairy
- stem: erect
- similar to: Grey Goldenrod
- common in certain areas

Summary of Key Identification Points of Goldenrods

Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis* var. *nemoralis*)

- flowers: inflorescence one-sided
- stem: fuzzy gray, densely hairy
- stem: arching
- size: small plant - usually only about 12" tall max.
- habitat: dry fields
- common
- similar to: Hairy Goldenrod

Blue-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)

- flowers: in little tufts up the stem
- leaves: toothed
- stem: bluish (glaucous), but not always
- stem: slightly crooked
- stem: arches toward the light
- habitat: open woods, edges of trails
- common

Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

- flowers: in tufts up the stem
- leaves: very toothed
- leaves: oval, large, broad
- stem: crooked
- habitat: woods
- common

Rough-leaved Goldenrod (*Solidago patula*)

- leaves: rough
- stem: smooth
- stem: ridged (NOT 4-sided like the books say)
- stem: erect, arching at the top
- habitat: wet areas
- common
- similar to: Rough-stemmed Goldenrod

Rough-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* spp. *rugosa*)

- leaves: rough (fuzzy)
- leaves: network of prominent veins are indented into the leaf surface
- stem: rough
- stem: erect, arching at the top
- habitat: moist areas, but not as wet as Rough-leaved Goldenrod
- common
- similar to: Rough-leaved Goldenrod

Here are the three Canada Goldenrod-like goldenrods that are so often confused:

1. Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

- flowers: inflorescence pyramidal in shape
- flowers: all on one side of flower stems
- leaves: distinctive veins: one midvein, two side veins diverge from midvein near the leaf base and run to end of leaf
- leaves: sharply toothed
- leaves: lowest gone by flowering time
- leaves: biggest just below the flower inflorescence, high up on stem
- leaves: lots of leaves
- leaves: feel a bit rough
- stem: pubescent, but not all the way to the base
- stem: erect, arching at the top
- no galls
- common
- similar to: Late Goldenrod, Tall Goldenrod, Early Goldenrod

2. Late Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*)

- flowers: earlier than the other two species of this group (in spite of its name!)
- flowers: inflorescence more open than the other two species of this group
- flowers: just after or with Early Goldenrod
- leaves: "thinly" leathery
- leaves: larger
- stem: very smooth & glaucous the entire length
- stem: within inflorescence sometimes not smooth
- stem: erect, arching at the top
- no galls
- common
- similar to: Canada Goldenrod, Tall Goldenrod, Early Goldenrod

3. Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis* var. *scabra*)

- flowers: long flowering season (Jul-Nov)
- flower heads obviously larger than the other two species in this group
- leaves: triple-veined
- stem: pubescent all the way to the base (short hairs)
- stem: erect, arching at the top
- has insect galls
- common
- similar to: Canada Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod, Early Goldenrod

Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*)

- flowers: first of all the Goldenrods to flower
- flowers: inflorescence "elm-shaped"
- leaves: biggest towards base of stem; has obvious basal leaves
- leaves: all leaves are present when flowering
- leaves: basal leaves offset to one side of stem: these are for next year's plant.
- leaves: small leaflets in axils of main leaves
- stem: smooth; may be reddish-purple
- stem: arching
- habitat: dry fields
- common
- similar to: Canada Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod, Tall Goldenrod

Summary of Key Identification Points of Goldenrods

Sharp-leaved Goldenrod (*Solidago arguta* var. *arguta*)

- leaves: lower ones resemble Zigzag Goldenrod
- leaves: upper ones resemble Gray Goldenrod
- leaves: smooth
- stem: smooth lower; fuzzy upper
- stem: erect, arching at the top
- habitat: open woods, edges of woods
- very rare in Ontario
- similar to: Zigzag Goldenrod

Silverrod (*Solidago bicolor*)

- flowers: WHITE, not yellow
- flowers: in tufts up the stem, but mostly towards the top
- stem: erect
- habitat: open woods, edges of woods