



Solidago caesia

Blue-stem Goldenrod

Solidago caesia is a perennial wildflower with arching blue-green stems. The stems are clothed in oblong leaves that gradually become smaller as the stems rise. From late summer into fall plants are graced with yellow axillary flower racemes. Plants are tough and adaptable prospering in part sun or part shade with mesic or average soil.

Full sun Average to moist soil

Height: 18 -36 inches Spread: 12 - 18 inches

Bloom time: September, October

Bloom color: Yellow

Solidago caesia is a clumping perennial wildflower that branches occasionally in the plant's upper half. From late summer to fall, short racemes of 1-12 golden flowerheads occur along the stems in the upper leaf axils. The flowerheads are about 1/8' across and each contains 4-5 ray florets surrounding 4-5 disc flowers.

Flowering and form are best with 3 hours or so of sun. In dense shade stems may arch or bend so that pruning may be needed.

Solidago caesia is drought tolerant and somewhat unpalatable to rabbits.

Native bees, wasps and pollinating flies seek nectar and pollen from the flowers. Plants host caterpillars of several moth species. Seed are eaten by songbirds, and deer may graze on the foliage.

Every autumn, goldenrods are wrongfully accused of causing allergies. The goldenrods are insect pollinated and have heavy sticky pollen. The plants

that *do* cause allergies and hay fever have lightweight wind borne pollen that is easily inhaled.