



Solidago flexicaulis

Zig-zag Goldenrod

Solidago flexicaulis is a perennial wildflower with upright unbranched stems. Stems are clothed in oval toothed leaves that gradually become smaller as the stems rise. From late summer into fall plants are topped with elongated yellow flower clusters. Plants are tough and adaptable prospering in part sun or part shade and in moist well drained soil.

Part sun Moist well-drained soil

Height: 3 feet Spread: 1 – 2 feet

Bloom time: August, September, October

Bloom color: Yellow

Solidago flexicaulis is a clumping unbranched perennial wildflower that prospers in mesic or dry soils. Plants tolerate some drought and loamy, clay or rocky soils. The central stem is green and smooth or pubescent. It usually changes direction or zig-zags between the nodes. From late summer to fall, the central stalks are terminated by narrow panicles or racemes of golden flower heads. Each flowerhead is ¼” across with 3-4 ray florets and 4-8 disc florets. In autumn the florets mature into bullet shaped achenes crowned by tufts of hair. Flowering and form are best with bright light or 3 hours or so of sun. Plants also tolerate total shade.

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.