

Rigid Goldenrod
Oligoneuron rigidum (L.)
plant symbol = OLRIR

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Elsberry Plant
Materials Center



Alternate Names

Stiff goldenrod
Hard-leaved goldenrod
Gray Goldenrod

Key Web Sites

Extensive information about this species is linked to the Plants web site. To access this information, go the Plants web site, <http://plants.usda.gov> select this plant, and utilize the links at the bottom of the Plants Profile for this species.

Uses

Rigid goldenrod can be used for roadside plantings, prairie restoration, prairie landscaping and native gardens.

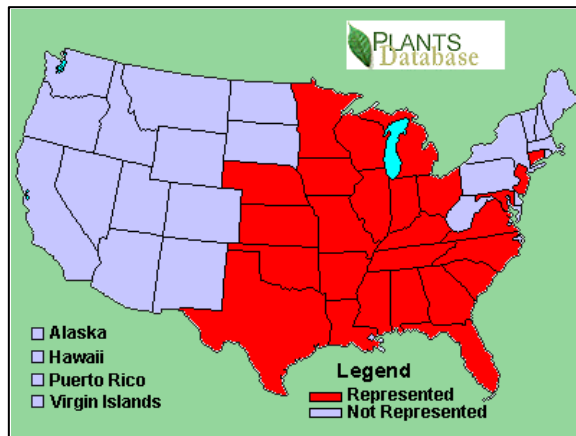
Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

Rigid goldenrod is a coarse, erect perennial forb often occurring in clumps. The fibrous roots may penetrate the soil 5 feet, so it competes well with the dominant grass species. This plant may grow to a height of over 3 feet-even 4 feet may be reached in the eastern portion of its range. The leaves and stem are usually hairy, giving the plant a distinctive pale green or grayish cast. Leaves are alternate, with the lower ones long-petioled and oval. The upper leaves are smaller, sessile, and ovate to oblong; they slightly clasp the stem. All are sparsely toothed and are harsh and leathery. The lower leaves form a large basal rosette early in the season or sometimes in the previous fall, so the plant is discernible throughout the growing season. The terminal inflorescence is bright yellow, more or less flat-topped to somewhat rounded, dense, and up to several inches across. The mass of tiny, golden flowers, individually about 1/3 inch long, combine to make a large, handsome spray that begins blooming in August and throughout September. Reproduction is by lateral shoots and by seed.

Known Distribution



May 2002

Adaptation

Rigid goldenrod inhibits upland prairies, dry open woods, roadsides and disturbed areas

from Minnesota to Texas and west to the Rocky Mountains.

Establishment

Prepare a clean weed free seedbed by disking and harrowing or using chemical weed control. Firm the seedbed by cultipacking. Seedbed should be firm enough to allow seed to be planted ¼ inch deep. The seed of rigid goldenrod needs cold moist stratification for two months (60 days) in cold, moist environment (35-40 degrees Fahrenheit, do not freeze), this is the usual time required to break dormancy, however, a few require one month or three months. Use a planter that insures proper seeding depth and good seed and soil contact like a brillion roller that is capable to handling and placing seed in a uniform manner.

Seeding rates for rigid goldenrod are based on seeds per row or square feet. Rigid goldenrod has approximately 735,000 seeds per pound.

For seed production:

The solid stand (complete coverage) seeding rate is 1.5-2.5 pounds PLS per acre (30-40 PLS per square foot). The seeding rate for seeding in 36-inch rows is 0.4 - 0.6 pounds PLS per acre (20-30 PLS per row foot).

For prairie mixture:

Rigid goldenrod should be a 5% or less component of a seeding mixture (total of 40 PLS per square foot). A seeding rate mixture of 2 PLS per square foot (5% mixture) extrapolates to 0.1 PLS pound/acre.

Use no fertilizer the establishment year unless soil test indicates a low deficiency of less than 15 PPM of phosphorus and or less than

90 PPM of potassium. Use no nitrogen during the establishment year as this can encourage weed competition.

Management

Reduce weed competition by mowing over the height of the rigid goldenrod plants or cultivating between the rows. For grassy weed control usage of a post emergence grass herbicide can provide control and will encourage a good stand. Remove dead plant material in the spring for faster green-up by shredding. Burning of dead plant refuge can weaken the plants unless done before it has broken dormancy.

Pests and Potential Problems

This species was grown at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center for several years, and during this time there was no apparent pests or potential problems in growing this species.

Environmental Concerns

Rigid goldenrod is not known to invade where this species does not naturally occur.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

According to the publication entitled 'Improved Conservation Plants Materials Released by NRCS and Cooperators through September 2001', there are no cultivars, source identified, selected or tested releases of rigid goldenrod from the Plant Materials Program. The origin for these releases was northern, central and southern counties in the state of Iowa.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <<http://plants.usda.gov>> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.