



# Cape May Plant Materials Center

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Materials Program

Planting Guide

*Proudly Serving the Conservation Needs of the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region from Massachusetts to North Carolina.*

## MONARCH GERMPLASM SEASIDE GOLDENROD (*Solidago sempervirens*)

**Primary Use:** Dune Restoration

**Secondary Use:** Wildlife Habitat

**NRCS Conservation Practices:** WHIP, dune restoration, wildlife habitat, and shoreline erosion control

Monarch Germplasm seaside goldenrod is a tested class release for use in dune restoration and wildlife habitat in the coastal plain region of the U.S. from Massachusetts to North Carolina. Monarch Germplasm was assembled from collections throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. These collections were placed in a Latin Square crossing block in the field at the Plant Materials Center. The seed produced from this composite crossing block is broad-based genetic material suitable for dune planting and use throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.



### Description of the Species

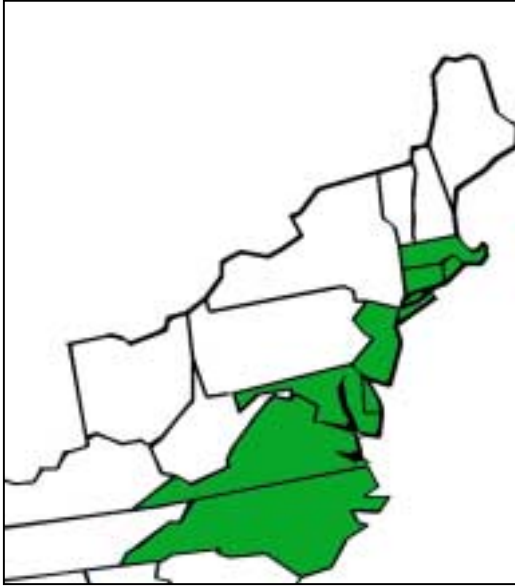
Seaside goldenrod is a perennial forb typically three to five feet tall with dark green fleshy leaves produce abundantly along the entire length of the stem. The basal leaves are up to eight inches long and 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches wide tapering to less than one inch in length near the top of the stem. Stems arise from short, stocky rhizomes. In late February and early March, red leaves poke through the dune sand surface and soon become dark green. From late August to early October, the bright yellow flowers provide an attractive contrast to the lush, thick green vegetation. Winter identification is usually made by the bleached skeleton of woody-like stalk and dried flower parts. Goldenrod is insect pollinated, but is often blamed for inducing hay fever and conditions when the wind-pollinated ragweed is most likely the culprit.

### Adaptation

Seaside goldenrod is a native, perennial forb well adapted to the backside of primary dunes, low secondary dunes and edges of salt marshes. The species is known to occur from Maine, south to Florida and west to Indiana and Texas.

The area of adaptation of Monarch Germplasm has not been fully tested. Successful plantings have been made along the Atlantic coast from Cape Cod, MA to North Carolina. Because Monarch Germplasm is a composite

## Anticipated Area of Adaptation



of collections from the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England states it should perform well throughout this region.

### Establishment

Presently, the only developed method of propagation is by root stalk or propagule division. Transplants should be made in late winter to early spring. Seeding has potential, but the technique has not been fully developed.

### Management

Seaside goldenrod requires little maintenance. Periodic fertilization of the dunes will help maintain vigor of the vegetation. American beachgrass growing in association with goldenrod will show signs of decline when fertilization is needed long before the goldenrod shows decreased vigor. In fact, seaside goldenrod often volunteers in declining or dead stands of American beachgrass (*Ammophila breveligulata*).

### Availability

Foundation seed of Monarch Germplasm seaside goldenrod is available from the USDA-NRCS, Cape May Plant Materials Center, 1536 Route 9 N., Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210, Tele: (609) 465-5901, Fax: (609) 465-9284.

For more information about this and other conservation plants, contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District.

Visit the Plant Materials Program at [http:// Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov)

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