

Grey Goldenrod – *Solidago nemoralis*



Grey Goldenrod – *Solidago nemoralis*

Habitat Notes:

Open forests, woodlands, barrens, clearings, old fields, road banks, most characteristic of dry soils, but occasionally occurring in seasonally saturated soils.

Species Identification:

- Yellow flowers
- Height 0.5-4 feet
- Stem erect to depressed, terete, minutely to densely grayish-puberulent.
- Leaves 5-25 x 0.8-4 cm, basal and cauline, tufted at the base, reduced upward, oblanceolate or spatulate-obovate, gradually narrowed basally, acute, crenate-serrate or the upper leaves entire, densely and finely pubescent with grayish hairs loosely spreading. 3-ribbed or with lateral veins evident.
- Inflorescences paniculiform, wand like, pyramidal, secund.
- Cypselae 0.5-2mm, strigose; pappi 2-4mm.

Cultural Conditions:

- Full sun (6 hours or more of direct sunlight)
- Clay soil, high organic matter, sand, shallow rocky
- Good drainage, occasionally dry

Ecological Benefits:

- Wildlife: Attracts a wide range of insects that visit for pollen and nectar. Many caterpillars feed on the foliage and other parts of the plant.

Growing Protocol:

- Seed stratification: C(60), D
 - 60 day cold moist stratification. Keep at temperature range of 33-38 degrees for duration of stratification.
 - Seeds are very small and require light to germinate. Should be sown on the surface or using fine grade vermiculite as the sowing medium.
 - Add water to stratification media periodically to ensure seeds do not dry out.

Collection Information:

- Fluffy seeds. Tugging the pappus can aid in knowing when to harvest. If the stem is still green and the seeds refuse to release with the pappus, its too early.
- Collect when stem is dark and pappus full and easy to pull.
- Shaking stem in bag can be an efficient way to collect many seeds.
- Grasping the base of the inflorescence and pulling up the stem can be a good way to collect seeds without having to cut much of the plant.

Pests & Disease:

- Can be affected by spot anthracnose, powdery mildew, rust, and fungal spots in moist conditions.