

Solidago sp. L.
Goldenrods

"Goldenrod??!! Did he say goldenrod? But that's a weed!" Hey, it's about time we began to appreciate what we have in our native plants. These days there are even several well respected cultivars that have been developed. When it comes right down to it goldenrod really is a wonderful garden perennial. It is tough, doesn't spread aggressively and its floral display comes late in the season when other plants have passed their prime. And, goldenrods are gaining a lot of respect as cut flowers in commercially produced flower arrangements.

Full sun and soils of average or below average fertility suit *Solidago* just fine. As a matter of fact, fertile soils can lead to the plant getting out of hand. Some species can reach six feet in height but most cultivars stay below four to five feet.

As for pests and diseases, leaf rust is the most common.



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Goldenrod

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Very often I hear this plea, "I can't plant goldenrod. My neighbors have allergies and they'd be very upset!" In point of fact, even if someone is allergic to goldenrod the chance that it is responsible for actually causing symptoms is slim to none.

Why? Goldenrod is insect pollinated and very little of its pollen actually makes it into the air. More than likely the real cause of allergy symptoms are the ragweeds whose very inconspicuous flowers are wind pollinated and which bloom at the same time as goldenrod.