

***Solidago juncea* - Early Goldenrod**



Native to prairies, thickets, open woods, old fields and roadsides of eastern and central North America, early goldenrod is the first goldenrod to bloom. Plume-like panicles of golden, one-quarter inch, composite flowers bloom in July and August. The panicles reach outward and upward like exploding fireworks.

Hardy to USDA zone 3 (-40 degrees F), early goldenrod grows best in moderately dry, average or rocky soil in full to part sun. Plants will grow in moist soil if it is well-drained and tolerate drought, clay or sandy soil and black walnut trees. Early goldenrod can be aggressive in moist, sunny sites and may need to be divided every 2-3 years to limit spread. Deadhead spent blooms to encourage additional flowering.

Bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, and beetles are attracted to early goldenrod flowers for their nectar and pollen. Caterpillars of several moth species feed on plant foliage. The eastern goldfinch and several sparrow species eat goldenrod seeds and deer, groundhogs and rabbits browse the foliage. Early goldenrod is a good cut flower.

Goldenrods do not cause hay fever, which is an allergic reaction to wind-borne pollen from other plants, such as ragweed.