

# Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)

## Aster Family

**Other Common Names:** prairie goldenrod, showy-wand goldenrod

**Scientific Name:** *Solidago speciosa* Nutt.

**Plant Symbol:** SOSP2

**Distinguishing characteristics:** Flower heads yellow in branched inflorescences arising both terminal and from the axils of the upper leaves, ascending to spreading; leaves are variable – those on the lower portions of the plant widest in the middle or the end of the leaf, and leaves above the middle of the plant are widest towards the base of the leaf, all leaves have 1 main vein, stems with longitudinal ridges or grooves.

**Plant Height:** 2-5 ft., erect

**Blooms/Fruits:** August–November

**Duration:** Perennial, herbaceous

**Pollinator Value:** This flower is very attractive to bumble bees and butterflies. Goldenrods are quality nectar and pollen sources for pollinators and other beneficial insects. It hosts a number of oligolege bees.

**Habitat:** Upland prairies, dry to mesic upland forests, dry open site, and roadsides.

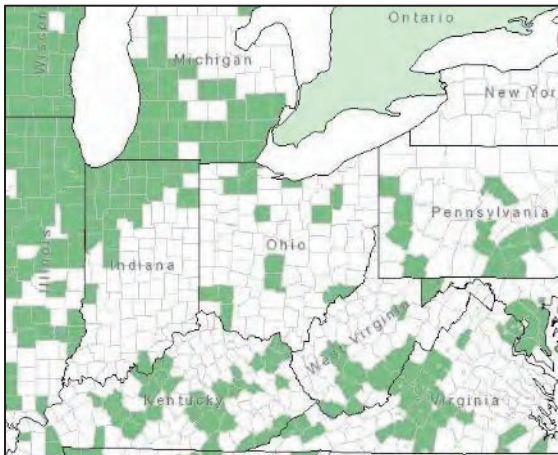


Photo: Sally and Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo: R.W. Smit, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Close-up of Flowers



Photo: R.W. Smit, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



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Mature plant



Photo: John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers

Leaf