

# Stiff Goldenrod

*Solidago rigida*

## At a Glance

Height: 3 to 5 feet tall

Bloom Colors: Bright golden yellow

Bloom Time: Late summer to fall

Days to Maturity: Perennial, blooms in second year

Best For: Pollinator gardens, native prairie plantings

## Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 65-75F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, sandy or loamy soil

Light Requirements: Full sun (6-8+ hours daily)

Planting Depth: Surface sow or lightly cover

Seeding Rate: Scatter thinly, thin to 12-18 inches apart

Moisture Needs: Moderate; drought tolerant once established

Average Germination Time: 14-21 days

## How to Grow

When to Plant: Sow outdoors in fall or cold-stratify seeds for spring planting.

Location: Full sun with good drainage.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart.

Watering: Moderate; once established, tolerates drought well.

Fertilizer: Minimal needs; thrives in poor to average soils.

## Tips for Success

Cold stratification improves germination.

Cut back old stems in late winter to allow fresh growth.

Great for low-maintenance native gardens.

Attracts bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

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## Fun Fact

Despite its name, goldenrod pollen does not cause hay fever; ragweed is the real culprit!

## Companion Planting

Pairs well with asters, purple coneflowers, and prairie grasses for a beautiful late-season display.

## Harvesting and Use

Cut blooms for long-lasting fresh arrangements. Seeds can be collected in late fall after they dry on the plant.

## Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow in fall or cold-stratify for spring
- Surface sow or lightly cover seeds
- Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart
- Provide full sun and moderate moisture
- Minimal fertilizer needs
- Cut back old stems in winter