



Weed of The Week

Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)

A common indicator that summer is ending and fall is approaching is the blooming of goldenrod. Goldenrod can be confused with the fall allergy-inducing ragweed. Both of these plants are known for their late summer to fall yellow blooms. Goldenrod is a native perennial wildflower that serves as a pollinator to many bees and butterflies. This weed is often planted as a wildflower and can quickly take over in an area. Each plant can produce over 3,000 seeds which are dispersed easily by wind. There are dozens of species of goldenrods. Typically, most goldenrods are winter hardy in our area and grow very well and are rarely afflicted with disease or insect problems. Goldenrod can grow anywhere from 2-6' depending on the species. Goldenrod is single-stemmed or somewhat branched near the top of the plant. Stems are hairy below flower branches with serrated, 5" long willow-like leaves. The tiny flowers are thickly arranged in triangular panicles. Ragweed has smaller inconspicuous flowers that are more of a green yellow color. Ragweed is a multiple stemmed plant starting at the base. Goldenrod grows easily in full sun and average, dry to medium, well-drained soil. It is a very forgiving plant and tolerates poor, dry soils, clay, and drought as well. To manage goldenrod in your pastures, mow plants before they begin to flower. Use an herbicide such as 2-4-D, discamba, crossbow, and spot treatments with glyphosate.



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