Beautiful yellow flowers celebrate the end of summer. Many of them are goldenrods. These perennial plants have alternate leaves and form clumps or larger patches. There are 22 kinds of native goldenrods in Wisconsin. Goldenrod and ragweed both bloom August to October. Goldenrod pollen does not cause hay fever. It is heavy and an important source of food for insects. Ragweed pollen is light, wind-born and allergenic.

**Old-field goldenrod (S. nemoralis)**

**Plant:** solitary and forms small clumps, short stem with fine grayish hairs.

**Flowers:** slender, curing to one side.

**Leaves:** narrow with fine grayish hairs, leaflets at base of leaves.

**Habitat:** dry; prairies, savannas.

---

**Canada goldenrod (S. canadensis)**

**Plant:** very large patches, tall stems, insects can cause galls, hybridizes with S. gigantea and S. altissima.

**Flowers:** variable, open spreading cluster, plume or pyramid shape.

**Leaves:** stalkless, smooth, with teeth.

**Habitat:** dry to moist; prairies, fields, woods, roadsides.

---

**Prairie flower walk**

Goldenrod flower heads are made of many tiny flowers. The shape of the flower heads and leaves are clues to identification. Take some time to look at the yellow flowers of late summer and autumn. Observe the differences and similarities.

**About Holy Wisdom**

In 1953, the Benedictine sisters first set down roots on this hill overlooking Lake Mendota. Since then, they have built a strong tradition of caring for the earth, rooted in the Benedictine values of stability and respect for all creation. Some of the sisters’ first projects caring for the earth included planting trees, many of which are still present today.

We welcome you to explore the trails, prairies and woodlands at Holy Wisdom Monastery and hope you enjoy this oasis of quiet beauty. To learn more, please visit HolyWisdomMonastery.org. Friends are also invited to join volunteer work days and attend environmental education events. If you would like to support our work of caring for the earth, please become a Friend of Wisdom Prairie.

---

**Wisconsin Goldenrods**

- Old-field
- Grass-leaf
- Showy
- Elm-leaf

- Canada
- Stiff
- Riddell’s
- Zig-zag

Created by Sylvia Marek & Peter Marshall © 9/22

 redes de plantas.
**Grass-leaf goldenrod (E.graminifolia)**

**Plant:** forms large patches, stem smooth and slender.

**Flowers:** mostly flat-topped clusters of tiny yellow flowers.

**Leaves:** long and narrow without teeth.

**Habitat:** moist to dry; full sun, prairies, meadows.

---

**Showy goldenrod (S. speciosa)**

**Plant:** mostly in dense clumps, stem smooth, often reddish.

**Flowers:** elongated oval flowerhead, sometimes branched, at the top of stem.

**Leaves:** smooth, without teeth, pointed, larger at the base of stem.

**Habitat:** dry to medium moisture; full sun, prairies.

---

**Elm-leaf goldenrod (S. ulmifolia)**

**Plant:** often forms patches, sometimes solitary, stem is smooth.

**Flowers:** long spreading and arching flower branches.

**Leaves:** coarsely toothed, rough to touch, elm-like leaves

**Habitat:** dry; shady woods, savannas.

---

**Stiff goldenrod (S. rigida)**

**Plant:** solitary or forms clumps, rigid erect stem with dense stiff hairs.

**Flowers:** branching flat-topped clusters with large bright yellow flowers.

**Leaves:** gray-green, oval, with stiff hairs, rough on both sides, lower leaves stalked, upper leaves stalkless.

**Habitat:** dry to medium moisture; prairies, woods.

---

**Riddell’s goldenrod (S. riddellii)**

**Plant:** mostly solitary, smooth thick stem.

**Flowers:** flat or round topped, branched cluster.

**Leaves:** smooth, clasping stem, curved with pointed tips, edges folded up.

**Habitat:** wet; prairies, fens, meadows.

---

**Zig-zag goldenrod (S. flexicaulis)**

**Plant:** often forms patches, sometimes solitary, stem is smooth and zig-zags.

**Flowers:** short clusters at leaf junctures and in long terminal clusters.

**Leaves:** broad, pointed, sharply toothed, tapers to winged stalk.

**Habitat:** dry to medium moisture; sun to shade; woods and savannas.