



## ***Solidago ulmifolia* – Elm-leaved goldenrod**

COMMON NAME: Elm-leaved goldenrod

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Solidago ulmifolia* - *Solidago* is from the Latin *solido* meaning “to make whole or heal” referring to its use as a medicine. *Ulmus* is an elm and *folium* is a leaf.

FLOWER COLOR: yellow

BLOOMING PERIOD: late summer to early fall, lasting about 3-4 weeks.

SIZE: 1 to 5 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Elm-leaved goldenrod grows from a short woody stem just below the surface of the ground, so the arching flower stalks are solitary or with a few branches, but not in large patches like the goldenrods that grow from long, creeping rhizomes. The small flower heads have only 3-5 ray flowers, arranged in crowded clusters, with all the heads on the same side of the branch.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Elm-leaved goldenrod is found in dry to mesic deciduous woods. It needs filtered sun, so it's common in dry woods dominated by oak and hickory or in the gaps and at the edges of maple woods where the canopy opens and the shrub layer is still sparse.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The leaves are smooth and thin, sharply toothed along the edges and abruptly tapered at the base to a distinct stalk. The leaves towards the base tend to drop off before the plant blooms. Leaves decrease in size going up the smooth stem. Leaf veins are pinnate with a single midrib. Most other goldenrods have leaves of uniform size along the stem and with three prominent veins.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern North America west to eastern Minnesota and eastern Texas. In Wisconsin it is common only south of the Tension Zone.

COMPANION PLANTS: Red and white oaks, basswood, hog peanut, arrow-leaved aster.