



***Solidago flexicaulis* – Zigzag Goldenrod**

COMMON NAME: Zigzag goldenrod

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Solidago flexicaulis* – the name comes from the Latin word *solidago* meaning “I make whole” and referring to possible medicinal value. *Kaulis* (Greek) means stem, so *flexicaulis* is a bending stalk or stem.

FLOWER: brilliant yellow, with the flowers in small clusters where the leaves attach to the stem.

BLOOMING PERIOD: August to October

SIZE: 1 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Spreads by both seed and rhizomes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Shade to partial shade and is the most shade tolerant of all goldenrods. It thrives in acidic, humus-rich soil, but tolerates sandy soils. This plant seems to also tolerate the allelopathic (somewhat toxic) chemical secretions of black walnut trees.

NATURAL RANGE: Nova Scotia to North Dakota, south to Georgia and Arkansas, all of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: As the name implies, the stem is usually in a zigzag form. The leaves are quite wide (up to 4 inches) and about 6 inches long and have short stems (petioles) where they attach to the main stalk. Zigzag goldenrod flowers attract butterflies and the seeds are consumed by pine siskins and swamp sparrows. Native Americans had medicinal uses for both the roots and leaves.

SUGGESTED CARE: Protect from drying out in first year after planting.

COMPANION PLANTS: Solomon’s plume, wild geranium, Pennsylvania sedge, hepatica, trillium and violets.