



## Lowcountry Master Gardener Association

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### GOLDENROD

Oh, no, my allergies are acting up! Is it this yellow plant I see blooming everywhere? Probably not. Although Goldenrods are commonly blamed for hay fever, this discomfort is usually caused by pollen from Ragweed (*Ambrosia* spp.), which are less conspicuous plants with greenish flowers that bloom at the same time. This handsome species produces showy displays, usually late in the summer.

There are both good and bad goldenrods. Our native *Solidago canadensis* has been declared a noxious weed in many countries for its aggressive running habit. Other native *Solidago* species (*S. rugosa*, *S. stricta* and others) are much better behaved and have been hybridized in Europe for decades for the cut flower market. There are several goldenrods on the market that are drought-tolerant, easy-to-grow, non-aggressive perennial wildflowers and butterfly / hummingbird attractants.





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*Photographer: Smith, R.W.*

*Pictures and text drawn from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Plant Delights Nursery*