

showy goldenrod *Solidago speciose*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Showy goldenrod is a perennial herb with a strong, smooth, red stem. The smooth leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Margins of the lower leaves have irregular edges. Yellow flowers develop in heads at the stem tip. Disk and ray flowers are present in the flower heads, and both are fertile. There are five to six rays per flower. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Showy goldenrod may attain a height of two to six feet.

BEHAVIORS

Showy goldenrod may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in open woods and prairies. Flowers are produced from August through October. The flowers are pollinated by insects. All parts of this plant may be eaten by wildlife.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; sand prairie

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2017. Biodiversity of Illinois.