

stiff goldenrod *Oligoneuron rigidum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

This perennial herb has hairy leaves in an alternate arrangement along the stem. The stiff, lance-shaped upper leaves clasp the hairy stem. Lower leaves are large, oblong, short-stalked and rough. The small, yellow flowers develop in a broad, flat-topped cluster at the stem tip. Both disk and ray flowers are present, and both are fertile. There are six to 14 rays per flower. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Stiff goldenrod may attain a height of one to five feet.

BEHAVIORS

Stiff goldenrod may be found statewide in Illinois, although it is uncommon in the southern tip of the state. It grows in dry to moist prairies, dry thickets, sandy soil and rocky, open ground. Flowers are produced from August through September. Flowers, leaves, stems and buds all provide food for wildlife.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; hill prairie; sand prairie

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