



Goldenrod

(*Solidago* spp.)

Originated in North America. Introduced in Europe in the 1600s for ornamentation and honey making.

Description

- Perennial, herbaceous plants producing rhizomes
- Tall stalks, from 50 to 150 centimetres high:
 - green with hairs for *S. canadensis*
 - reddish and smooth for *S. gigantea*
- Alternating leaves, sessile or with a short petiole:
 - length 9 to 10 cm, width 10 to 14 mm
 - pure green and pubescent on the under side for *S. canadensis*
 - blue-green and smooth or ciliated for *S. gigantea*
- The inflorescence is a pyramid-shaped panicle:
 - flower heads (capitula) comprising flowers 4 to 8 millimetres in diameter
 - yellow flowers, with a ligule
- Achenes 0.5 to 2 mm long, with a coma (filament-like hairs) 3 to 4 mm long
- Strong root system producing multiple rhizomes

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats include:
 - the sides of roads and train tracks
 - idle land, riparian vegetation and shaded edges of forests
 - river banks, marshes and wet meadows
- *S. canadensis* is more tolerant of dry conditions and can colonise a wider range of soil types
- Highly effective reproduction through vegetative multiplication (generation of clones by rhizomes)
- The seeds can be spread by the wind

Documentation

- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord.) 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.

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Classification

Ordre	Astérales
Famille	Asteraceae
Genre	<i>Solidago</i>
Espèce	<i>S. canadensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1753) <i>S. gigantea</i> (Aiton, 1789)



1. Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*).
2. Stalk and leaves of *S. canadensis*.
3. Giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*).