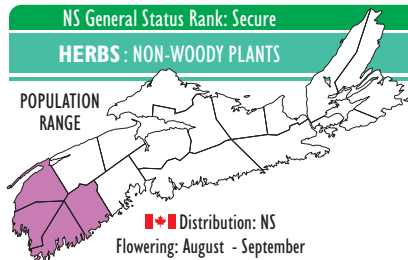


POPULATION RANGE



◆◆ Distribution: NS

Flowering: August - September

SIZE: 40-150 cm tall.

LEAVES: Elliptical or lance-shaped with a rounded base, 6-15 cm long, and 1.5-3.5 cm wide, with many veins. The leaf edges are smooth or serrated. They are alternately arranged on the stem and have very short or absent leaf stalks. The leaves at the base of the plant (basal) and lower leaves wither before flowers are produced.

STEM: Smooth, erect and unbranched.

FLOWERS: Arranged in a 5-10 cm elongate and often downward-arching branched cluster (inflorescence) at the top of the stem. The cluster contains a large number of small yellow daisy-like flower heads that are 5-10 mm wide. Each head is composed of approximately 10-20 miniature flowers or florets.

FRUITS: Dry, one seeded fruits (achenes), 1-2 mm long. This species is in the same family as dandelions and produces similar fruits which are attached to long hairs that allow them to easily be carried by wind.

NOTES:

The former scientific name of this species is *Solidago elliotii* and that is where its common name comes from.



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Flower cluster



Leaf

Habitat:

Lakeshores, wet thickets, open or partially shaded wetlands such as maple and spruce swamps.

Interesting point: Goldenrods have long been unfairly blamed for causing hayfever because many species bloom at the same time as Ragweed (*Ambrosia* spp.) which commonly causes allergic reactions in people with pollen allergies.

Similar species: A total of 15 species in the *Solidago* genus are known to occur in NS. Rough Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*) most resembles Elliott's Goldenrod but has a stem which is covered in hairs, tends to be found in drier areas, and is more widely distributed. Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and Smooth Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*) are similar in size and appearance but both have upper stem leaves that are narrower (<1.4 cm wide) with 3 veins.



Rough Goldenrod



Rough Goldenrod stem