

Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'

'Fireworks' is a cultivar of the native herbaceous perennial *Solidago rugosa* in the Asteraceae (daisy) family. Plants form a bushy, upright clump reaching 2- to 3-ft. tall and wide. In late summer -- just when many other border plants are declining -- tiny yellow flowers start to open on the 18-in.-long arching flower spikes, turning 'Fireworks' into a garden focal point.

'Fireworks' is a good cut flower and pairs nicely with the blues and lavenders of asters or Joe Pye Weed.

'Fireworks' was introduced in 1993 from the North Carolina Botanical Garden, originally having been selected from a coastal plain population of the species.

This goldenrod emerges in late spring from very slowly spreading rhizomes to produce numerous stalks covered with



narrow, dark-green leaves. Although the stalks may lean to one side, the rigid stems rarely need staking to keep them from falling over. By midsummer, the plants have grown to their ultimate height.

'Fireworks' grows best in moist, well-drained soil, but it is somewhat tolerant of both dry and wet soils. Divide

plants every three to four years or as needed. Cut the plant down in early spring before it starts growing again.

Use it in the border of a native or pollinator garden or naturalized meadow setting. It is resistant to browsing by deer, and it resists the challenges of heat and humidity.

Unfortunately, the goldenrods share their bloom time with the inconspicuous ragweeds. It is the ragweed pollen that aggravates so many hay-fever sufferers, as ragweed pollen is wind-disseminated. For seed production, ragweed

relies on vast amounts of pollen to be wind-blown to nearby female flowers. Goldenrods have heavier, stickier pollen well-adapted for insect pollination.

The bright goldenrod flowers are attractive to numerous pollen-gathering insects, such as bees, butterflies, wasps, and beetles. Songbirds eat the seeds.

FAR LEFT: Emerging growth K. Andre CC BY 2.0; MIDDLE: Flowers David J. Stang CC BY-SA 4.0; BELOW: Form D. Richards CC-BY-SA 2.0



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For more information on gardening in Brunswick County, please call the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, 910.253.2610.

SOURCES:

[Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks' \(Rough Goldenrod\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](https://www.ncsu.edu/extension/gardeners/rough-goldenrod/)

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/fireworks-goldenrod-solidago-rugosa/>

[Goldenrod & Ragweed | Home & Garden Information Center \(clemson.edu\)](https://www.clemson.edu/extension/gardeners/goldenrod-ragweed/)