

**Key to the Goldenrod Species of the Finger Lakes Region of New York
(Solidago, Euthamia)**

- 1a. Overall inflorescence corymb-like.
 - 2a. Heads primarily in glomerules. Basal and lowermost stem leaves absent at flowering. Leaves sparsely gland-dotted. ***Euthamia graminifolia***
 - 2b. Heads borne on short peduncles. Basal and lowermost stem leaves often persistent at flowering. Leaves not gland-dotted. ***Solidago ohioensis***
- 1b. Overall inflorescence various, but not corymb-like.
 - 3a. Heads arranged one-sided on branches. Branches spreading to ascending, often also recurved. Overall inflorescence panicle-like, often broadly so.
 - 4a. Leaves with 3 prominent, long parallel veins.
 - 5a. Stems glaucous and glabrous below the inflorescence. ***Solidago gigantea***
 - 5b. Stems not glaucous, variously pubescent below the inflorescence.
 - 6a. Lower leaf surfaces uniformly pubescent. Peduncles and bracts of peduncles with some minute glands. (View at 20x.) ***Solidago altissima***
 - 6b. Lower leaf surfaces pubescent primarily along main veins. Peduncles and bracts of peduncles not glandular.
 - 7a. Stems glabrous to sparsely pubescent toward the base, becoming densely pubescent above. ***Solidago canadensis var. canadensis***
 - 7b. Stems pubescent throughout. ***Solidago canadensis var. hageri.***
 - 4b. Leaf veins various, but not with 3 long, parallel-veins.
 - 8a. Stems glabrous or thinly pubescent below the inflorescence.
 - 9a. Basal, lower and mid-stem leaves sheathing stems.
 - 10a. Leaves lanceolate, fleshy (succulent); margins entire. Plants of coastal beaches and salt marshes. (Introduced to some inland highways.) ***Solidago sempervirens***
 - 10b. Leaves oblanceolate, not fleshy; lower stem leaves with toothed margins; mid- to upper leaves becoming entire. Plants of wetlands, but not principally coastal. ***Solidago uliginosa* (in part)**
 - 9b. Leaves not sheathing stems.
 - 11a. Basal and lowermost stem leaves often persistent at flowering.
 - 12a. Basal and lowermost stem leaves oblanceolate, Flowering branches glabrous or with scattered hairs. ***Solidago juncea***
 - 12b. Basal and lowermost stem leaves ovate to nearly round. Flowering branches pubescent.
 - 13a. Stems angular in cross-section. Leaf surfaces scabrous (sandpapery). Plants of low, wet habitats. ***Solidago patula***
 - 13b. Stems round in cross-section. Leaf surfaces not scabrous (\pm smooth). Plants of upland woods and clearings. ***Solidago arguta***

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- 11b. Basal leaves typically deciduous at flowering. Lowermost stem leaves often deciduous at flowering. ***Solidago ulmifolia***
- (Note: *S. arguta* and *S. ulmifolia* can sometimes appear similar. The basal, lower and mid-stem leaves of *S. arguta* are ovate to nearly round, while the basal, lower and mid-stem leaves of *S. ulmifolia* are oblanceolate.)
- 8b. Stems densely pubescent throughout.
- 14a. Lower stem leaves typically persistent at flowering. Basal leaves sometimes also persistent at flowering. Stem leaves often subtending axillary tufts of leaflets. Plants not colonial from creeping rhizomes. Herbage gray-green. ***Solidago nemoralis***
- 14b. Basal and lower stem leaves deciduous at flowering. Stem leaves not subtending axillary tufts of leaflets. Plants often forming colonies of close-spaced stems arising from long, creeping rhizomes. Herbage green.
- 15a. Leaves thick and firm; often strongly rugose, finely toothed to entire; tips acute. ***Solidago rugosa ssp. aspera***
- 15a. Leaves thinner, less firm; only slightly rugose, often sharply toothed; tips typically long-pointed. ***Solidago rugosa ssp. rugosa***
- 3b. Heads not arranged one-sided on branches (except sometimes appearing so in *S. caesia*). Overall inflorescence club-shaped, wand-shaped or narrowly panicle-like, with relatively short, erect or ascending, *straight* branches.
- 16a. Rays white. Disc florets yellowish-white. ***Solidago bicolor* (in part)**
- 16b. Rays and disc florets yellow.
- 17a. Lower stem leaves and at least some basal leaves typically present at flowering. Stem leaves becoming progressively smaller upwards. Flowering branches longer than subtending leaves.
- 18a. Stems densely pubescent throughout. ***Solidago bicolor* (in part)**
- 18b. Stems glabrous or glabrate below the inflorescence branches.
- 19a. Tips of involucral bracts appressed, neither spreading nor recurved. Lower to mid-stem leaves sheathing stems. ***Solidago uliginosa* (in part)**
- 19b. Tips of involucral bracts abruptly recurved. Stem leaves not sheathing stems. ***Solidago squarrosa***
- 17b. Basal and lower stem leaves often deciduous at flowering. Mid- to upper stem leaves not, or scarcely reduced in size upwards. Flowering branches/branchlets shorter than subtending leaves.
- 20a. Stems straight or arching, blue-gray glaucous. Leaves narrowly lanceolate, sessile; leaf tips tapering to long slender point. ***Solidago caesia***
- 20b. Stems straight or flexuous, not glaucous, not arching. Stem leaves lance-ovate, broadly ovate or nearly round, tapering abruptly to winged petioles; leaf tips relatively short pointed. ***Solidago flexicaulis***