Key to the Goldenrod Species of New England and New York
(Solidago, Euthamia)

1a. Overall inflorescence corymb-like, ± flat-topped.

2a. Heads in glomerules or on very short peduncles.

3a. Leaves linear, from 1 to 3 mm wide (to 6 mm wide in some Maine populations), commonly with 1 prominent vein (often with 2 additional faint veins), copiously gland-dotted. Stem leaves abundant, some reflexed, the larger subtending axillary tufts of smaller leaflets. Ray florets 7 to 17. **Euthamia caroliniana**

3b. Leaves linear to narrowly lanceolate, from 3 to 12 mm wide, generally with 3 to 5 parallel veins, sparsely gland-dotted. Stem leaves not highly congested, not usually reflexed, not usually subtending axillary tufts. Ray florets 17 to 22. **Euthamia graminifolia**

2b. Heads borne on evident peduncles (not in glomerules).

4a. Mid- to upper-stem leaves ovate. Leaves moderately pubescent. Rays yellow. **Solidago rigida**

4b. Upper stem leaves linear to lance-linear. Leaves glabrous or sparsely pubescent. Rays white or yellow.

5a. Rays white. **Solidago ptarmicoides**

5b. Rays yellow. **Solidago ohioensis**

1b. Overall inflorescence various, but not corymb-like.

6a. Heads arranged one-sided on branches. Branches spreading to ascending, often also recurved. Overall inflorescence panicle-like, often broadly so.

7a. Leaves with 3 prominent, long parallel veins.

8a. Stems glaucous and glabrous below the inflorescence. **Solidago gigantea**

8b. Stems not glaucous, variously pubescent below the inflorescence.

9a. Lower leaf surfaces uniformly pubescent. Peduncles and bracts of peduncles with some minute glands. (View at 20x.) **Solidago altissima**

9b. Lower leaf surfaces pubescent primarily along main veins. Peduncles and bracts of peduncles not glandular.

10a. Stems glabrous to sparsely pubescent toward the base, becoming densely pubescent toward flowering branches. **Solidago canadensis var. canadensis**

10b. Stems pubescent throughout. **Solidago canadensis var. hargeri.**

7b. Leaf veins various, but not with 3 long, parallel-veins.

11a. Stems glabrous or thinly pubescent below the inflorescence.

12a. Basal, lower and mid-stem leaves sheathing stems.

13a. Leaves lanceolate, fleshy (succulent); margins entire Plants of coastal beaches and salt marshes. (Introduced to some inland highways.) **Solidago sempervirens**

13b. 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)
Key to the Goldenrod Species of New England and New York  
(Solidago, Euthamia)

12b. Basal and stem leaves not sheathing stems.
   14a. Lowermost stem leaves typically persistent at flowering.  
        Basal leaves sometimes persistent at flowering.
       15a. Basal and lowermost stem leaves oblanceolate,  
            flowering branches glabrous or with scattered hairs.  
            **Solidago juncea**
       15b. Basal and lowermost stem leaves ovate to  
            nearly round.  Flowering branches pubescent.  
            **Solidago patula**
   14b. Basal and lowermost stem leaves deciduous at flowering.
      17a. Mid- to upper stem leaves lanceolate, densely dotted  
           with sunken glands.  Fragrant when injured.  
           **Solidago odora**
      17b. Mid- to upper stem leaves ovate, elliptic or broadly  
           oblanceolate, not glandular, not fragrant.
      18a. Leaves feather-veined.  Overall inflorescence  
           relatively broad; flowering branches widely  
           spaced; often long, spreading and/or recurved.  
           **Solidago ulmifolia**
      19a. Lowermost stem leaves with broad  
           winged petioles; leaves pubescent.  
           **Solidago rugosa var. sphagnophila**
      19b. Lowermost stem leaves lacking  
           petioles or with inconspicuous,  
           short petioles; leaves glabrous.
      18a. Leaves network-veined.  Overall  
           inflorescence narrowly pyramidal in  
           outline; branches more numerous and  
           closely-spaced, relatively short, not  
           conspicuously spreading.  
           **Solidago latissimifolia**
11b. Stems densely pubescent throughout.
   20a. Lowermost stem leaves typically persistent at flowering.  
        Basal leaves sometimes also persistent at flowering.  
        Stem leaves becoming progressively smaller upwards,  
        often subtending axillary tufts of leaflets.  
        Stems tufted.  Plants not colonial  
        or from creeping rhizomes.  Herbage gray-green.  
        **Solidago nemoralis**
   20b. Basal and lowermost stem leaves deciduous at flowering.  
        Stem leaves becoming only slightly smaller upwards, if  
        at all; not regularly subtending axillary tufts of leaflets.  
        Stems from long creeping rhizomes (not tufted); plants often  
        forming colonies of close-spaced stems.  Herbage green.
      21a. Leaves thick and firm; often strongly rugose,  
           finely toothed to entire; tips acute.  
           **Solidago rugosa ssp. aspera**
      21a. Leaves thinner, less firm; only slightly rugose,  
           often sharply toothed; tips typically long-pointed.
           **Solidago rugosa ssp. rugosa**
6b. Heads not secund (except sometimes *S. caesia*). Overall inflorescence club-shaped, wand-shaped or narrowly panicle-like, with relatively short, erect or ascending, *straight* branches.

   **Solidago bicolor** (in part)

22b. Rays and disc florets yellow.

23a. Lower stem leaves and at least some basal leaves typically present at flowering. Stem leaves becoming ± progressively smaller upwards

24a. Stems densely pubescent throughout.

25a. Stem and leaf hairs densely puberulent.  
   **Solidago puberula**

25b. Stem and leaf hairs longer, spreading and/or curved (conspicuous).

   **Solidago bicolor** (in part)

   **Solidago hispida**

24b. Stems glabrous or glabrate below the inflorescence branches.

27a. Tips of involucral bracts abruptly recurved (squarrose).  
   **Solidago squarrosa**

27b. Involucral bracts appressed, neither spreading nor recurved.

28a. Lower to mid-stem leaves sheathing.  
   **Solidago uliginosa** (in part)

28b. Stem leaves not sheathing.

29a. Involucral bracts resinous.

30a. Basal leaves oblanceolate, lance-ovate to ovate, long winged-petiolate, or spatulate; apices obtuse. Peduncles 1-4 mm. Plants of sub-alpine outcrops and ledges.  
   **Solidago randii**

30b. Basal leaves narrowly oblanceolate to narrowly spatulate; apices acute. Peduncles 5-15 mm. Plants of calcareous outcrops and ledges along rivers.  
   **Solidago racemosa**

29b. Involucral bracts not resinous.

31a. Upper stems puberulent (hairs extremely short and straight).  
   **Solidago erecta**

31b. Upper stems with curved and/or appressed hairs.

32a. Mid- to upper stem leaves ovate to narrowly ovate or elliptic, short, winged petiolate. Plants of lower elevations.  
   **Solidago speciosa**

32b. Mid- to upper leaves oblanceolate, sessile. Plants of subalpine slopes and summits.  
   **Solidago leiocarpa**
23b. Basal and lower stem leaves often deciduous at flowering. Mid-
to upper stem leaves not, or scarcely reduced in size upwards.
Heads typically growing in axillary clusters or on very short branches.

33a. Stems straight or arching, blue-gray glaucous. Leaves
narrowly lanceolate, sessile; apices long acuminate.  
**Solidago caesia**

33b. Stems straight or flexuous, not glaucous, not arching. Stem
leaves lance-ovate, broadly ovate or nearly round, tapering
abruptly to winged petioles; apices acute or acuminate.

34a. Stems flexuous, at least within the inflorescence.
Involucres shorter than 8 mm. Rays 1-5 per head.  
**Solidago flexicaulis**

34b. Stems straight. Involucres greater than 9 mm. Rays
7-13 per head.  
**Solidago macrophylla**