Tall Goldenrod

Solidago altissima



Tall Goldenrod flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Late Goldenrod

Description:

This widespread native species presents masses of golden yellow blooms from late summer to mid fall, on towering plants; will rapidly colonize areas by rhizomes and self-seeding, so soil containment and deadheading are advised

Ornamental Features

Tall Goldenrod has masses of beautiful panicles of lightly-scented yellow flowers with gold overtones at the ends of the stems from late summer to late fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season.



Tall Goldenrod in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Tall Goldenrod is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

Tall Goldenrod is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Tall Goldenrod will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Tall Goldenrod is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.