

## 2023 August *Guess that Plant*



*Euthamia graminifolia* (L.) Nutt., Flat-topped or Grass-leaved Goldenrod

The August Guess that Plant is a common perennial called grass-leaved goldenrod. The name *Euthamia* was formerly applied to the group of determinate, flat-topped members of this unique part of the Asteraceae, the Daisy family. Once named *Solidago graminifolia*, the modern nomenclature calls it *Euthamia graminifolia* and its common name as flat topped goldentop. The use of *Euthamia* is both an acknowledgement of the morphological and genetic differences with the member of the genus *Solidago*. In doing so modern taxonomists resurrected an ancient genus.

The Guess that Plant species is common throughout the State, and is often found on farm field edges, old fields, roadsides and similar open habitat. The plant prefers moist loamy soils, but is found wherever opportunity exists. It is separated from our other native member, *Euthamia caroliniana*, by its three veined leaves, and its propensity for a rust that creates black dots on mature leaves (bottom photo). *Euthamia caroliniana* is a smaller plant with linear cauline leaves with one vein. Flat-topped goldentop is flowering between August and November. Look for the distinguishing flat yellow flowering head and to be certain, check for the black rust, it is one of the field characteristics unique to this plant in our flora.