

November 2023 Plant of the Month



Solidago sempervirens L., Seaside Goldenrod

November *Plant of the Month* is the native perennial, seaside goldenrod. The genus *Solidago* is a member of the Asteraceae or Compositae, also known as the Aster family. This group of plants is one of New Jersey's largest families. Seaside goldenrod is a plant of the salt marsh edge. It is found above the high tide on sandy soil and dunes that are infrequently flooded. The plant is often associated with the common *Baccharis/Iva/Phragmites* zone often seen around New Jersey's salt marshes. This plant was once restricted to the coastal counties with Atlantic Ocean or Delaware Bay marshes. Today, this plant is found in all of the southern counties as a roadside plant, apparently following the once-common winter application of road salts.

Seaside goldenrod is one of almost two dozen species that call New Jersey home. *Solidago* species occupy all of New Jersey's habitats, and the seaside goldenrod is one example of the adaptation of the genus to the many landscape conditions that exist in New Jersey. The *Plant of the Month* is differentiated from other goldenrod species primarily by the plume inflorescence and the leathery, entire leaves.

Many members of the genus *Solidago* have been used by Native Americans for medicine and fiber. It was used to treat fevers and coughs as well as other ailments (Moerman, 1998). The *Plant of the Month* is in its last flowering days. The seaside goldenrod is visible now along the coastal marshes. As the fall progresses and the frosts become more numerous, our monthly plant will slowly fade, only to appear next spring.

JRA, 11/2023