

# Canadian Goldenrod

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Solidago canadensis*

**AKA:** *Solidago altissima*, Eurwialen Canada (Welsh)

**Native to:** North America

**Habitat:** Common on waste land, road and rail verges and river sides

Distinctive herb, can be confused with the native goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*). Relatively tall (up to 2 m) with numerous small yellow flowers forming pyramidal flower heads. Spreads by airborne seeds and rhizome. Clonal growth produces dense stands.

Cultivated as a garden plant since 1648, but did not become widespread until 1930s. Threat to natural habitats through displacement of native species. Dense stands along water-courses can impede flow under flood conditions. Considered a weed of river banks, forests, nurseries and gardens.

For details of legislation go to [www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation).



## Key ID Features



60cm to 200cm tall



## Identification throughout the year

Flowers present from August to October, after which the plant sets seed.

### Seed heads in November



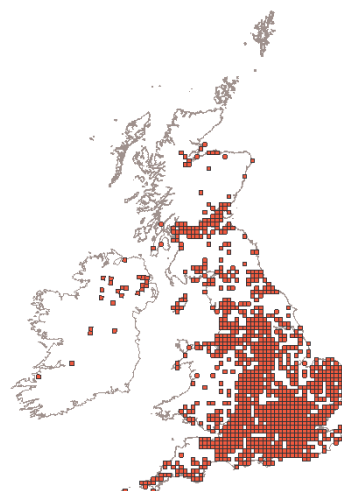
### Individual seeds



## Distribution

Widespread in England, less so in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution



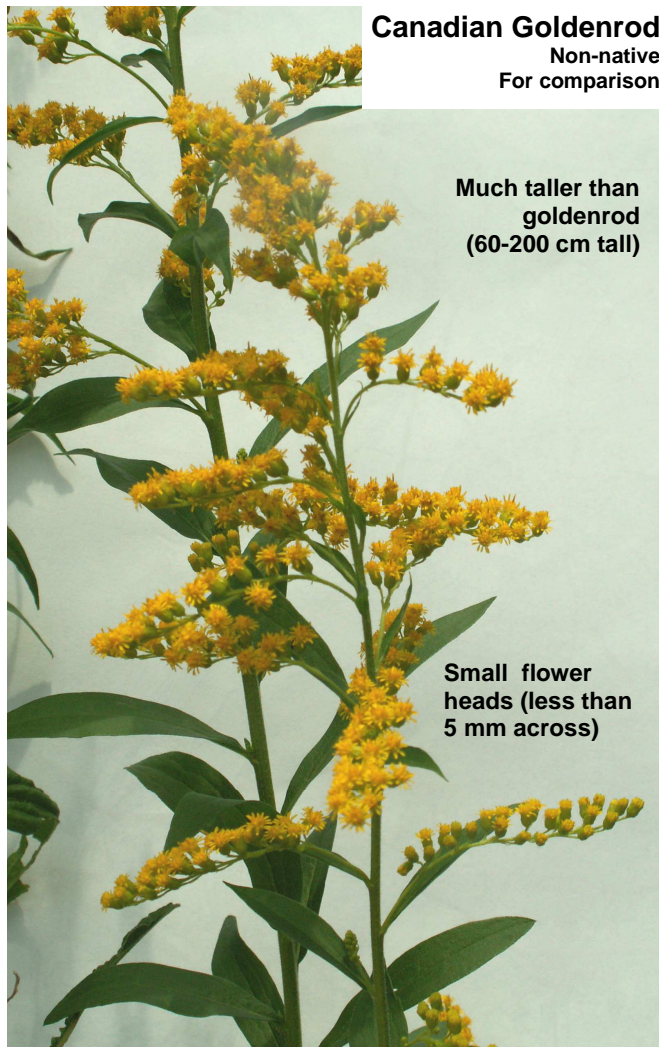
## Similar Species

There are a number of species of goldenrod in the UK, of which Canadian goldenrod and early goldenrod (*Solidago giganteum*) are non-native and *Solidago virgaurea*, commonly known just as goldenrod, is native. It can be difficult to distinguish Canadian and early goldenrod, however distinction is easier between this and the native species (shown below).

**Goldenrod**  
Native  
(*Solidago virgaurea*)



**Canadian Goldenrod**  
Non-native  
For comparison



References and further reading:  
Stace, C (1999) "*Field Flora of the British Isles*".  
Cambridge University Press