

Sticky Goldenrod

Solidago racemosa

Description

Sticky goldenrod is a perennial herb that reaches up to 3 feet (9 dm) in height. Its upright stems are mostly smooth but become hairy near the top. The leaves are oblong to egg-shaped, widest above the middle, and taper toward the base. Most leaves are basal and the leaves that do grow on the stem are progressively reduced as they ascend the stem. The flowers are displayed from August to September in cylindrical clusters of many small flower heads. The flower clusters vary in form. They may be dense and wand-shaped or have an open, branched appearance. Each small flower head has a yellow central disk surrounded by 7 to 10 yellow rays.

Distribution & Habitat

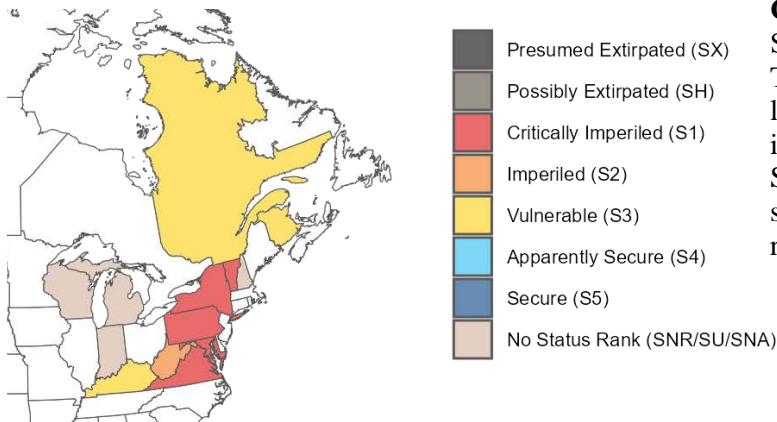
Sticky goldenrod's range extends in the U. S. from Maine south to Virginia and west as far as Michigan and Tennessee. In Pennsylvania this species occurs in river scours, rock crevices or shores along the Lower Susquehanna River.



Photo source: Tom Smith (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

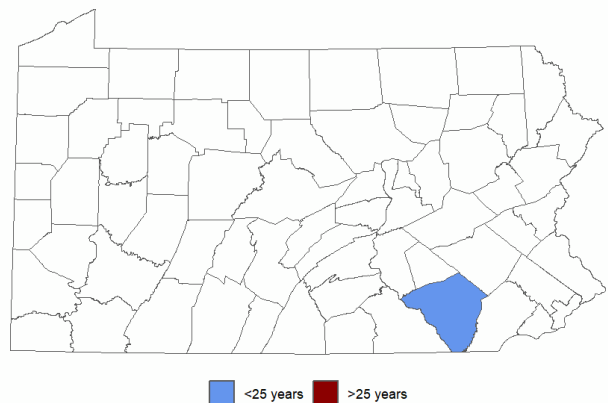
Map by NatureServe 2025



Current State Status

Sticky goldenrod has a rarity status of Endangered. Throughout the range of this species, habitat loss, land conversion for development and displacement by invasive species have all played a part in its decline. Sticky goldenrod grows along riverbanks where it is susceptible to increased erosion caused by excess run-off, removal of riparian forests, and ATV use.

Sticky Golden-rod (*Solidago racemosa*)



Conservation Considerations

Protection of sticky goldenrod will require maintenance of known populations and preservation of the riverside communities that support the species. This may include sustaining appropriate hydrology, removal of invasive plants, and establishment of buffers that can moderate the effects of scouring events and run-off. Management of the known sites requires long term monitoring of populations.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5T3? – Globally vulnerable; S1– Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania



References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.