

Slender Goldenrod

Solidago erecta

Description

Slender goldenrod is an upright, perennial herb that can grow up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall with stems that are smooth near the base but coarsely hairy along the flowering portion. The leaves grow alternately along the stem and become substantially reduced as they climb the stem. Leaves are elliptical, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (5-20 mm) wide, and have a thick, firm texture. The flowers are displayed from August to October in narrow clusters containing many small flower heads. The flower clusters are spike-like, with compact, ascending branches. Each flower head is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) wide and has a yellow central disk surrounded by 5-9 yellow rays.



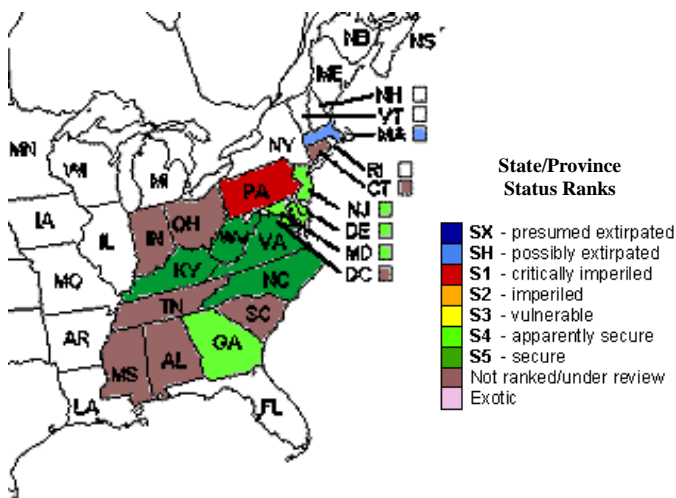
Photo source: R. Harrison Wiegand

Distribution & Habitat

Slender goldenrod can be found from Connecticut south to Georgia and west to Indiana through Mississippi. In Pennsylvania, it grows on dry, acidic, shaly river or road banks.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

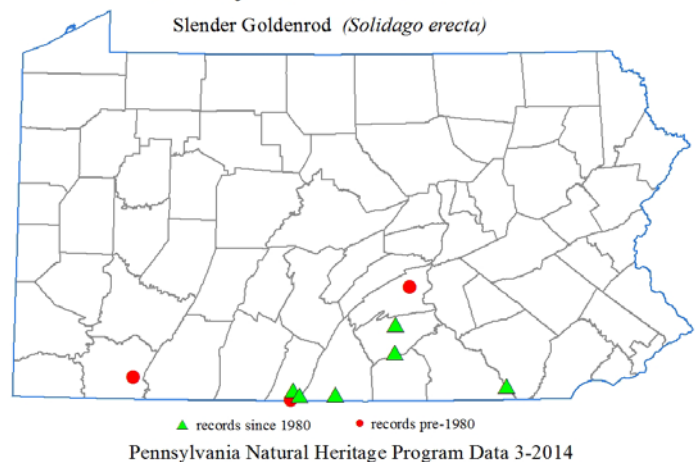
Map by NatureServe 2014



Current State Status

This species is threatened by habitat loss through land conversion and habitat succession. The river and road banks where slender goldenrod can be found often have an open nature and may need to be maintained by disturbance, such as fire, flooding, or mowing. Over time, if these disturbances are minimized, the open habitats may become overgrown by woody or invasive species.

Pennsylvania Distribution



Conservation Considerations

Protection of slender goldenrod will require maintenance of known populations and preservation of the communities on which they are dependent. 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

G5 – Globally secure; S1– Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.