

# Goldenrod

*Mary Hank*  
*Extension Agent for Horticulture*



# What does the Extension Service offer?

- Kentucky Cooperative Extension is the educational resource for all Kentuckians that serves as a catalyst to build better communities and improve quality of life
- Agriculture & Natural Resources, Horticulture, Forestry, Aquaculture, Nutrition, 4-H, and Community & Economic Development, and Family & Consumer Sciences
- For 2022 we are offering free soil sample testing (up to 7 samples per resident)





# Horticulture Agent

- Conduct soil tests
- Teach horticulture related classes
- Advise the McCracken County Extension Master Gardeners
- Conduct site visits (gardens, home, lawns, etc.)
- Help ID plants, weeds, trees, etc.
- Help ID diseases and how to treat/control the issue



# What is a Goldenrod?

- A Goldenrod is a plant of the genus Solidago; which means “to make whole”
- It is a perennial plant of the aster family
- They grow best in full sun
- Soil must be dry to medium and well-drained

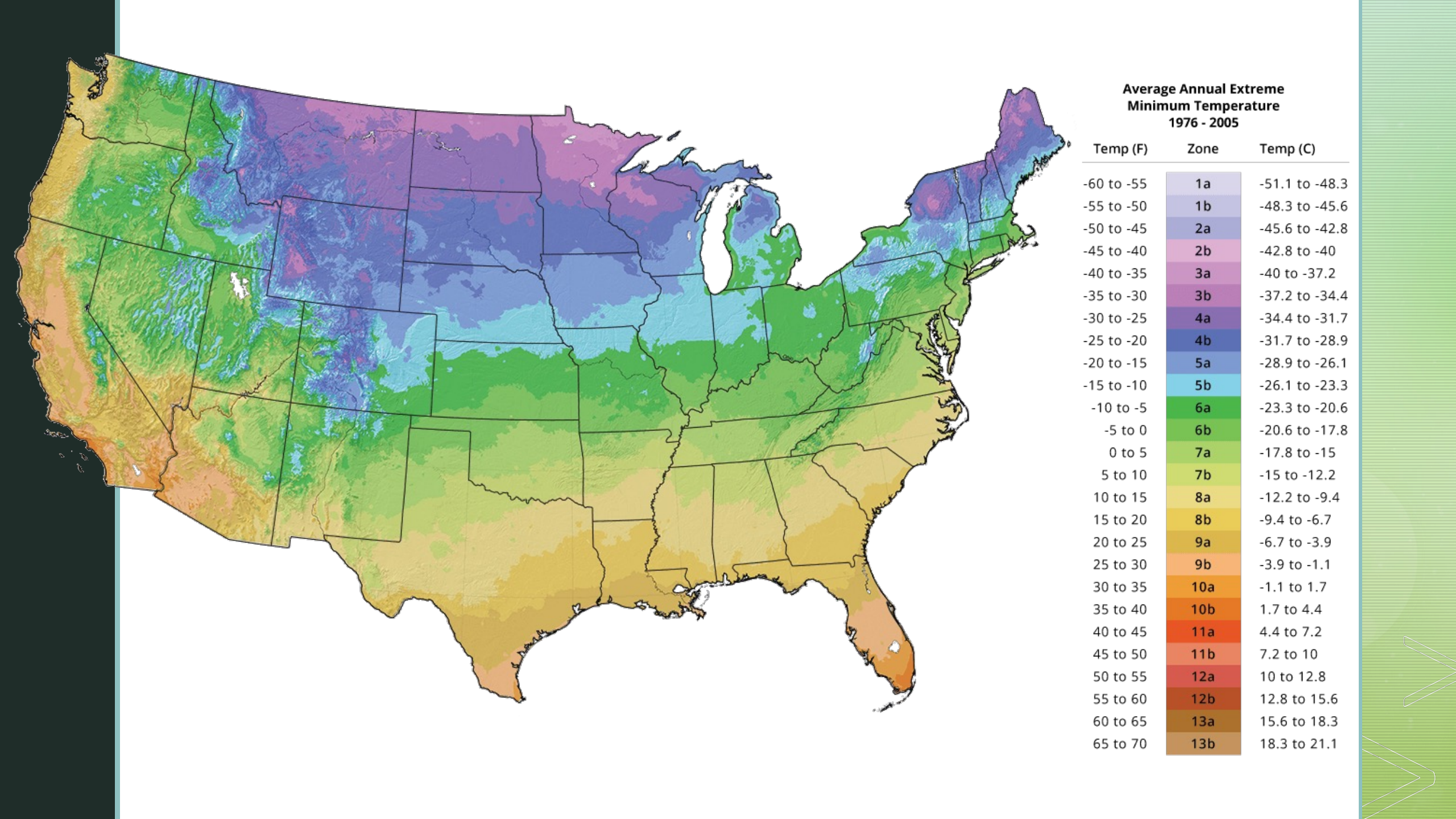




## Cont.

- They prefer acidic and neutral soil pH
- Hardiness zones are 2a-8b
- They are a native plant
- What hardiness zone is Paducah, KY?





Average Annual Extreme  
Minimum Temperature  
1976 - 2005

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-60 to -55	1a	-51.1 to -48.3
-55 to -50	1b	-48.3 to -45.6
-50 to -45	2a	-45.6 to -42.8
-45 to -40	2b	-42.8 to -40
-40 to -35	3a	-40 to -37.2
-35 to -30	3b	-37.2 to -34.4
-30 to -25	4a	-34.4 to -31.7
-25 to -20	4b	-31.7 to -28.9
-20 to -15	5a	-28.9 to -26.1
-15 to -10	5b	-26.1 to -23.3
-10 to -5	6a	-23.3 to -20.6
-5 to 0	6b	-20.6 to -17.8
0 to 5	7a	-17.8 to -15
5 to 10	7b	-15 to -12.2
10 to 15	8a	-12.2 to -9.4
15 to 20	8b	-9.4 to -6.7
20 to 25	9a	-6.7 to -3.9
25 to 30	9b	-3.9 to -1.1
30 to 35	10a	-1.1 to 1.7
35 to 40	10b	1.7 to 4.4
40 to 45	11a	4.4 to 7.2
45 to 50	11b	7.2 to 10
50 to 55	12a	10 to 12.8
55 to 60	12b	12.8 to 15.6
60 to 65	13a	15.6 to 18.3
65 to 70	13b	18.3 to 21.1

## Cont.

- Water new Goldenrod plants weekly to maintain damp, but not soggy soil
- Mature Goldenrod plants are drought tolerant and rarely need supplemental watering
- Fertilizer is usually not required but if the soil quality is poor you can add compost in the spring
- Pruning stem tips early in the spring can help plants become fuller and bushier



# Overwintering

- Goldenrod is a hardy plant to our area and does not need protection unless grown in containers
- In the garden, the stems can be cut down to a few inches above ground level
  - Wait until after the frost kills the foliage







# Characteristics

- They are autumn flowers that grow in the meadows, woods, rocky ground, and hills of the United States
- There are five types and more than thirty varieties of the goldenrods
- Most common in KY: tall goldenrod
- Goldenrods bloom between July and October

# Are Goldenrods good for pollinators?

- **YES!** They make great plants to attract butterflies and pollinators to your home garden
- The numerous small flowers of Goldenrods are filled with nectar and pollen
- Since they bloom in late summer, they are a crucial source of food for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators
- Flavor: medium sweetness with hints of licorice and butterscotch





# Cultural significance of State Flower

- The Goldenrod has long been symbolic of excitement and optimism in poetry and art
- In many cultures it is a sign of good fortune
- They are native to China, and they've become a powerful symbol of riches and good fortunes because of their vibrant hue
- Goldenrod is thought to flourish where treasure is hidden

# Uses of Goldenrod

- The leaves of some varieties of the Goldenrod are used to make herbal tea to reduce fevers and treat infections
- Helps with seasonal allergies or clogged sinuses
- Goldenrod contains polyphenols, which are plant-based chemicals that often act as antioxidants





# Pests and diseases of Goldenrod

- This plant has no serious insect or disease problems
- However, rust, powdery mildew, and leaf spot may occur



# Goldenrod or Ragweed?















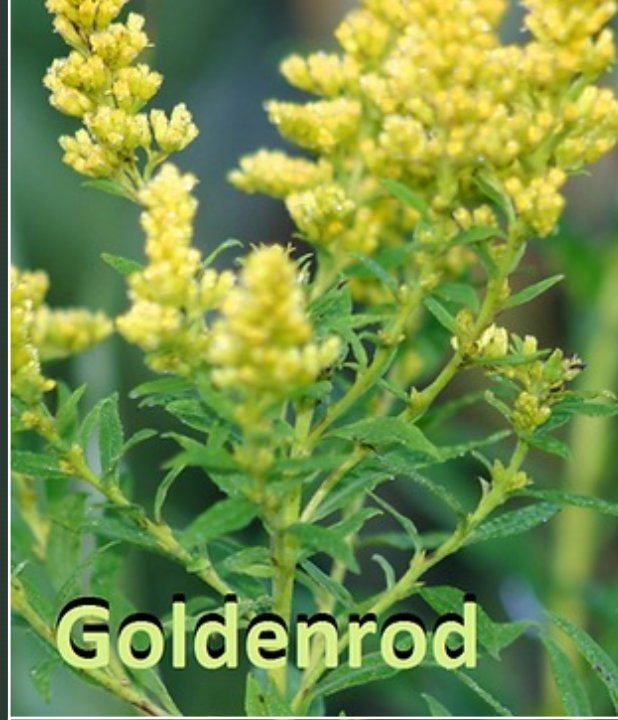






# Ragweed or Goldenrod?

- Ragweed is often confused with Goldenrod
- Ragweed is the culprit of allergies and NOT Goldenrod
- Ragweed doesn't grow very tall while Goldenrod can grow up to 5 feet tall
- Goldenrod's flowers are bright yellow while Ragweed's flowers are green to yellow and appear in smaller formations



# History of the state flower

- The trumpet vine was the official state flower of Kentucky In 1921, the Kentucky Women Club began promoting the goldenrod as the appropriate floral emblem.
- On May 16th, 1926 the goldenrod was officially adopted as the state flower



# Goldenrod in Kentucky

- Residents of the Bluegrass state have a long history of appreciating the Kentucky state flower
- The flower appears on the state flag encircling the Kentucky State Seal.







# Sources

- [https://www.ehow.com/info\\_8599702\\_difference-between-goldenrod-ragweed.html](https://www.ehow.com/info_8599702_difference-between-goldenrod-ragweed.html)
- <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/solidago/>
- <https://www.verywellhealth.com/goldenrod-benefits-4586964#:~:text=Traditional%20uses%20of%20goldenrod%20include%20treating%3A%201%20Tuberculosis,and%20throat%20%28when%20used%20as%20an%20oral%20rinse%29>