

Goldenrod

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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



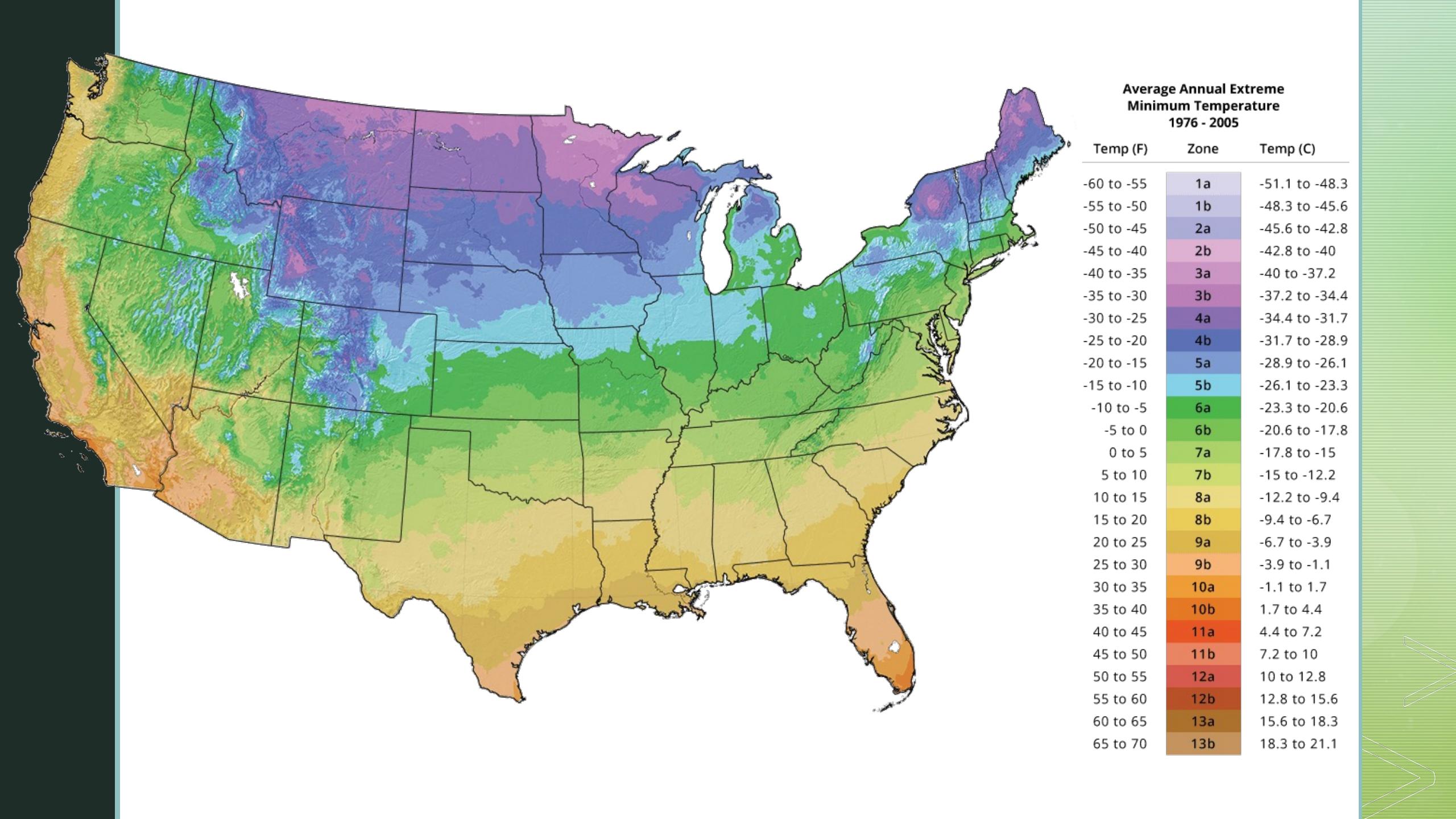
What is a Goldenrod?

- 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?



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?





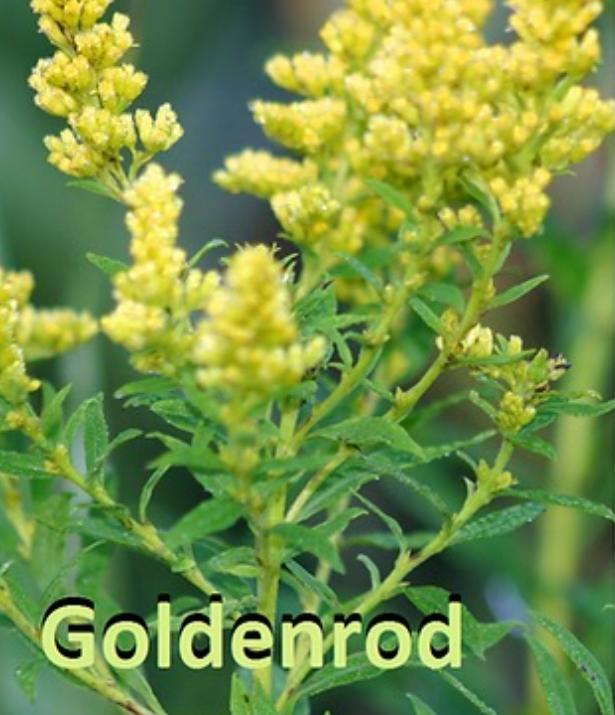






Ragweed or Goldenrod?

- 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



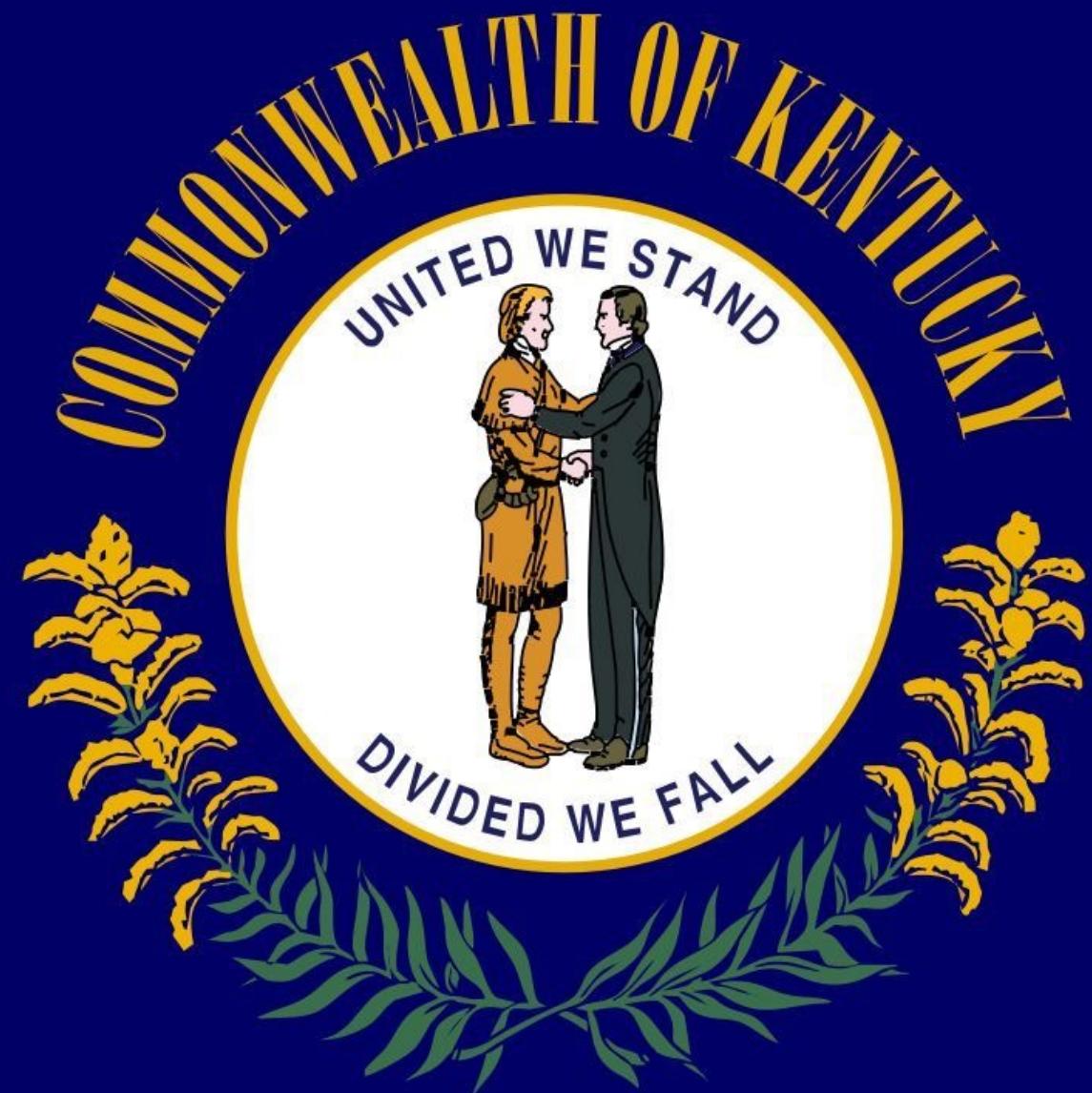
History of the state flower

- 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://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>