

# Monthly Pollen

## September



### Native Pollinator



Photo Credit: Tom Fenske

### Goldenrod Soldier Beetle, *Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*

**Description:** Elongated 5/8" inch body of burnt orange with black oval accents on the rear of the forewings and thorax. Two long, straight, brown-black antennae and six black legs.

**Flight:** Adults may be seen from July through September, but are most abundant in August.

**Foraging Habitat:** Can be found in meadows, fields, and gardens, feeding on pollen and nectar of late-summer flowering plants.

**Breeding:** Flowers are used to find mates and the females lay their eggs in clusters in the soil.

### Native Plant



Photo Credit: UW Arboretum

### Goldenrod, *Solidago spp.*

**Description:** Grow 1-7' feet tall depending on the species with 1/4" wide golden yellow flowers in tight, lengthy clusters and long, tapering, small toothed leaves. Grows in dense patches.

**Bloom Time:** July - October

**Sun Exposure:** Full to partial sun.

**Native Habitat:** Perennial forb, moist to dry soils, Habitat generalist that will grow along roadsides, fields, woods, and prairies.

**Species:** About 20 species of Goldenrods known to grow in Wisconsin with 8-10 fairly common.

### Fun Facts!



Photo Credit: Judy Gallagher

### Goldenrod Fun Facts!

Goldenrods are often wrongly blamed for hay fever, but the pollen is too heavy to be carried by wind and must rely on the assistance of insects like the soldier beetle for pollination.

It is well-known for its healing properties, particularly for anti-inflammatory purposes. It can be used topically or internally to reduce swelling, treat minor wounds, gout, kidney stones, and arthritis.

Goldenrod was used to make a tea substitute in Boston after the infamous Tea Party in 1773.