

SOLIDAGO PTARMICOIDES (T. & G.) B. Boivin
White Upland Goldenrod

FAMILY: Asteraceae

SYNONYMS: *Oligoneuron album* (Nutt.) Nesom.

Aster ptarmicoides (Ness) T. & G.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from a branched caudex, to 7 dm; flowers July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: In *Solidago*, this species is quite distinctive, and unlikely to be confused with other members of the genus. *S. ptarmicoides*' corymbiform (flat-topped) inflorescence and white rays eliminate other Ohio goldenrods. However, this species could be confused with the genus *Aster*, in which it has been placed by some authors, as *Aster ptarmicoides*. Genetically, though, it is aligned with *Solidago* and is known to hybridize with several species, although none of the hybrids have been reported from Ohio. If placed in the segregate genus *Oligoneuron*, the correct name becomes *O. album* (Nutt.) Nesom.

TOTAL RANGE: VT, NY, and w. Que. to GA, w. to Sask., CO, and AK.

STATE RANGE: The only records are from Ottawa, Van Wert, and Williams counties.

STATE STATUS: 1994 to present: Presumed Extirpated. This species was de-listed for ten years based on a misunderstanding of the taxonomy of *Solidago ptarmicoides*. It was mistakenly thought that this taxon was of hybrid origin, with one of the parents being *Solidago riddellii*, and that the correct name was *Solidago x luteus* (M.L. Greene) Brouillet & Semple. Actually, this element is quite distinct as a species. It does rarely hybridize with *S. riddellii*, but these hybrids are known as *S. x bernardii*. The plant that has been called *Solidago luteus* is a European garden hybrid, and is presumably the result of crossing with *Solidago canadensis*.

HABITAT: Dry, rocky or sandy open ground or open woods.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but perhaps competition with introduced plant species, or overshadowing of habitat as a result of succession. Northern Ohio represents the very southern boundary of a part of this species' range; consequently it may have been more susceptible to disturbance or alterations of habitat that may have eliminated or greatly reduced it in Ohio.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete flowering and/ or fruiting material. Avoid overcollecting in small populations.

COMMENTS: This species should be sought in appropriate habitats in northern Ohio, particularly on the Marblehead Peninsula, and in the Oak Openings.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of vascular plants of Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada, 2nd Ed.* The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. 910 pp.

Voss, E.G. 1996. *Michigan Flora, Part 3. Dicots (Pyrolaceae-Compositae).* Cranbrook Institute Sci. Bull. 61 and the Univ. of Mich. Herbarium, Ann Arbor, MI. 622 pp.



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