

How to Propagate *Solidago mollis*



Goldenrod Galore: Multiply Your *Solidago Mollis* With These Easy Propagation Techniques

Solidago mollis, more commonly known as soft goldenrod, is a vibrant wildflower renowned for its stunning golden plumes that grace gardens and meadows from late summer to fall. This North American native isn't just a feast for the eyes; it's a pollinator magnet, attracting bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. If you're looking to expand your patch of sunshine or share the joy of soft goldenrod with a friend, then propagation is the answer! Luckily, getting more of this beautiful plant is as easy as pie (or should we say, as easy as pie-shaped seeds?).

Sowing Seeds: A Symphony of Simplicity

Propagating *Solidago mollis* from seed is a rewarding experience for gardeners of all levels. Here's how:

1. **Seed Collection:** In the fall, keep an eye out for the fluffy seed heads to turn brown and dry. Carefully collect them and store them in a paper bag in a cool, dry place.
2. **Sowing Time:** You can sow the seeds directly outdoors in the fall or start them indoors 6-8 weeks before the last expected frost.
3. **Outdoor Sowing:** Choose a sunny or partially shaded location with well-drained soil. Sprinkle the seeds on the soil surface and lightly rake them in. Water gently.
4. **Indoor Sowing:** Use a seed-starting mix and sow the seeds about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in trays or pots. Keep the soil consistently moist and provide ample sunlight.
5. **Transplanting:** Once the seedlings are a few inches tall and all danger of frost has passed, transplant them outdoors. Space them 12-18 inches apart.

Division: Doubling Down on Beauty

For established clumps of *Solidago mollis*, division is a fantastic way to propagate and rejuvenate your plants every 3-4 years. Here's the breakdown:

1. **Timing is Key:** It's best to divide *Solidago mollis* in spring or early fall when the soil is workable.
2. **Digging Deep:** Carefully dig around the clump of goldenrod, ensuring you don't damage the roots.
3. **Divide and Conquer:** Using a sharp knife or garden spade, divide the clump into smaller sections, each containing a healthy portion of roots and shoots.
4. **Replanting:** Replant the divisions immediately in a sunny or partially shaded area with well-drained soil. Water them thoroughly.

Caring for Your New Goldenrod Offspring:

Solidago mollis is a relatively low-maintenance plant. Water your new plants regularly until they are established. A light

application of fertilizer in spring can promote healthy growth, but it's not essential. Deadheading spent flowers will encourage more blooms and prevent unwanted self-seeding.

Propagating *Solidago mollis* is a breeze, allowing you to easily multiply these golden beauties and create a vibrant, pollinator-friendly haven in your garden!