Golden alexanders

Zizia aurea

Minnesota C-Value: 6
Wetland Indicator Status: FAC+
Native

Leaves: Stalked, alternate, compound leaves, divided into 3 parts. Each of these parts is further divided into 3 leaflets. Each leaflet is up to 3 in. long and just over 1 inch wide, with evenly toothed edges.

Stems: Smooth branching stems 1-3 ft. tall with ridges.

Flowers and fruit: Compound umbel with many small flower heads. Each yellow flower is < 3 mm wide with 5 tiny petals and 5 protruding yellow stamens. Dry fruit splits into 2 seeds.

Plant communities: Moist meadows and prairies, wet thickets, sedge meadows, streambanks, woodlands.

Comments: Perennial that turns red in fall. Flower is similar in appearance to wild parsnip. The two plants can be distinguished by their leaves. Wild parsnip has pinnately-compound leaves with 8-15 leaflets without evenly -toothed edges.