

Golden Alexander

Scientific Name: *Zizia aurea*



<u>Life Cycle</u>	<u>Plant Height</u>	<u>Plant Spacing</u>	<u>Soil Moisture</u>	<u>Sun Exposure</u>	<u>Bloom Period</u>
Perennial	3 feet	1 - 2ft.	Medium	Full, Partial	April - June

Zizia aurea is one of those natives that every garden should have. It is fairly easy to grow and, although short-lived, will self-seed and persist in many sun/soil situations. *Zizia* is an important plant to a number of short-tongued insects that are able to easily reach the nectar in the small yellow flowers. Black Swallowtail and Ozark Swallowtails caterpillars will feed on its leaves. Golden Alexanders have a long bloom time, giving the garden/prairie some well-deserved early color for several weeks in late spring to early summer when many other plants have not yet flowered. Also called Golden *Zizia*, Golden Alexanders will tolerate a lot of shade but prefer full sun or light shade.

Zizia is a member of the Carrot (Apiaceae) family with yellow umbel flowers. *Zizia aptera* (Heart-leaf Golden Alexanders), is most similar and could be difficult to distinguish from *Zizia aurea* were it not for the heart-shaped leaves at the base of the plant. Heart-leaf Golden Alexanders can endure drier soils also. All of these important perennial native plants should not be confused with the similar-looking *Pastinaca sativa* (Wild Parsnip), a highly invasive Eurasian biennial commonly found on roadsides and other disturbed sites. Wild Parsnip is taller than the aforementioned natives, blooms later and can cause painful skin burns.

All information collected from www.prairiemoon.com