

GOLDEN ALEXANDER

Zizia aurea



Zizia aurea (golden alexanders, golden zizia) is a flowering perennial forb of the carrot family (Apiaceae). This native North American flower usually ranges in height from forty centimeters to seventy five centimeters tall but can sometimes grow taller. The leaves of the Golden Alexanders can go up to eight centimeters long and five centimeters wide. They are normally lanceolate or ovate. Other distinguishing factors of the leaves are that they have serrated edges as well as two or three lobes in the leaf.

Golden Alexanders blooms from May to June. Its flowers are yellow and bunched at the top of the plant. Each flower is only three millimeters long and has five sepals, five petals, and five stamens. Each flower produces a single three to four millimeter long, oblong, green fruit capsule. These fruits change color as the year goes on. Each one contains a brown seed. In the fall both the leaves and the fruit turn purple.