



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Galphimia glauca*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This compact, upright, rounded, evergreen shrub is covered during most of the year with small, very showy, yellow flowers (Fig. 1). The loose, open natural growth habit is ideal for informal plantings but it will need some pruning to keep from being too leggy. It can be sheared into a more formal hedge and can be used for topiary, but some flowers will be trimmed off at each pruning. Sheared plants often thin out at the bottom. To help prevent this, keep the bottom of a hedge slightly wider than the top to allow sunlight to reach the lower foliage. There are several examples in Florida of *Thryallis* pruned into a small, multiple-trunked tree.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Galphimia glauca*

**Pronunciation:** gal-FIM-ee-uh GLOCK-uh

**Common name(s):** *Thryallis*, Rain-of-Gold

**Family:** *Malpigiaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** border; mass planting; specimen; container or above-ground planter

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant



Figure 1. *Thryallis*.

### Description

**Height:** 5 to 9 feet

**Spread:** 4 to 6 feet

**Plant habit:** oval

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** oblong

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** yellow

**Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** green

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** reddish

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

### Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

### Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Full sun is needed for best appearance and flowering but Thryallis can tolerate some shade. Flowering will be sparse without a full day of sun. Plant three to five feet apart in shrub border or in any mass planting. Plants are killed to the ground at about 25-degrees F. but quickly regrow in the spring in USDA hardiness zones 8b and 9.

Thryallis is propagated by seeds, sown while still green, or by tender softwood cuttings in summer. Seedlings will bloom when one-foot-tall and six-months-old.

Thryallis is pest-free, only occasionally being bothered by caterpillars and mites.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.