Allamanda neriifolia

Edward F. Gilman

Introduction

Growing to 5 or 6 feet tall, Bush Allamanda forms a loose, semi-open, medium-sized shrub (Fig. 1). It does not climb structures like many of the other Allamandas. Leaves are dark green and glossy borne in whorls on stout, green stems. Groups of bright yellow flowers are periodically borne at the ends of branches throughout the year with peak bloom in summer and fall.

General Information

Scientific name: Allamanda neriifolia
Pronunciation: al-luh-MAN-duh neer-ee-if-FOLE-ee-uh
Common name(s): Bush Allamanda
Family: Apocynaceae
Plant type: shrub
USDA hardiness zones: 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: container or above-ground planter; foundation; border
Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure
Spread: 4 to 7 feet
Plant habit: round; spreading
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)
Leaf venation: pinnate

Figure 1. Bush Allamanda.
Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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: summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristic: showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: alkaline; acidic; clay; sand; loam
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests
Use and Management

Stems often grow for several feet without branching forming an open silhouette. Pinch developing shoots to increase branching and to form a more dense canopy. This also increases the flower display by producing more shoot tips. Plant them about 4 to 5 feet apart to form a flowering hedge. Unlike Yellow Allamanda, this plant is non-poisonous.

Full to part sun is required for best growth and flower display. Plants in the shade will flower poorly. Although any soil is suitable for good growth, Bush Allamanda appreciates some irrigation during extended drought. Light fertilizations during the year promote growth and flowering.

Pests and Diseases

A witches broom can deform Allamanda. Mites can infest the foliage.