



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Hypericum spp.*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This low growing plant can be used on dry sites (Fig. 1). The main ornamental trait is the three inch yellow flowers that contrast with the dark green foliage. The plant can grow a foot tall and can spread 1 ½ feet. There may be some topkill in winter in cold climate.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Hypericum spp.*

**Pronunciation:** hye-PAIR-rick-um species

**Common name(s):** St. Johnswort

**Family:** *Hypericaceae*

**Plant type:** ground cover

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 10A (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

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

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

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Uses:** foundation; border; mass planting; edging

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

### Description

**Height:** 1 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

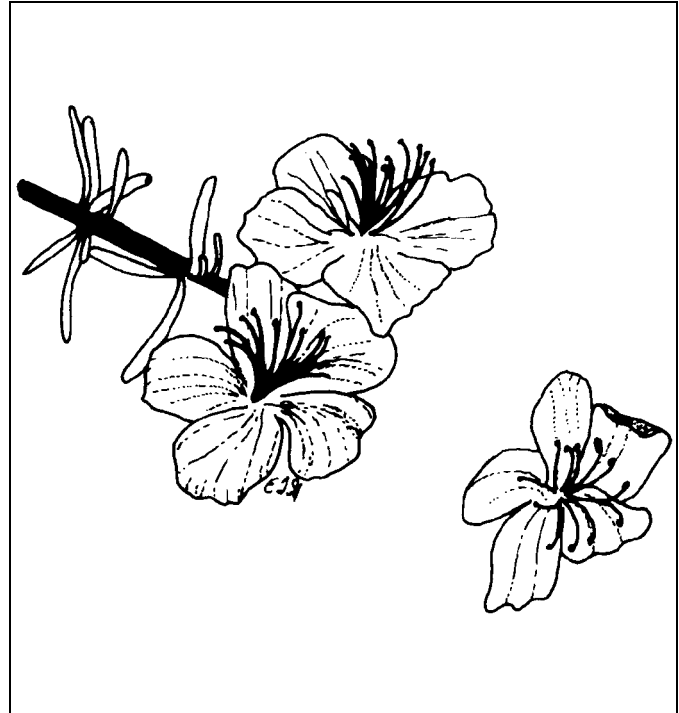


Figure 1. St. Johnswort.

**Texture:** medium

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** oblanceolate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** yellow  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** irregular  
**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
**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:** brown

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** sand; occasionally wet; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam; clay;  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** poor  
**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 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**