



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Allamanda cathartica*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

This evergreen, spreading and climbing vine, frequently trained into a shrub, is covered with vivid yellow, trumpet-shaped blooms up to five inches across (Fig. 1). The light green, glossy leaves are produced on slender, green, twining stems which become woody with age. Blooming during the warm months of the year, Yellow Allamanda should only be planted in frost-free locations, although it could be grown as an annual in colder climates due to its rapid growth rate. The erect sprawling growth habit makes it ideal for quick coverage of trellises, arbors, or on a tree trunk. Many people use it to cover the base of a mail box or pole. With proper pruning, it makes a very attractive free-standing specimen shrub. Allamanda will cascade over a retaining wall and makes a nice hanging basket. Rapid growth creates a sprawling form with individual shoots growing alone, away from the rest of the plant. Regular pinching will keep the plant in bounds, but too much pinching removes flower buds which form on new growth.

General Information

Scientific name: *Allamanda cathartica*

Pronunciation: al-luh-MAN-duh kath-AR-tick-uh

Common name(s): Yellow Allamanda

Family: *Apocynaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

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

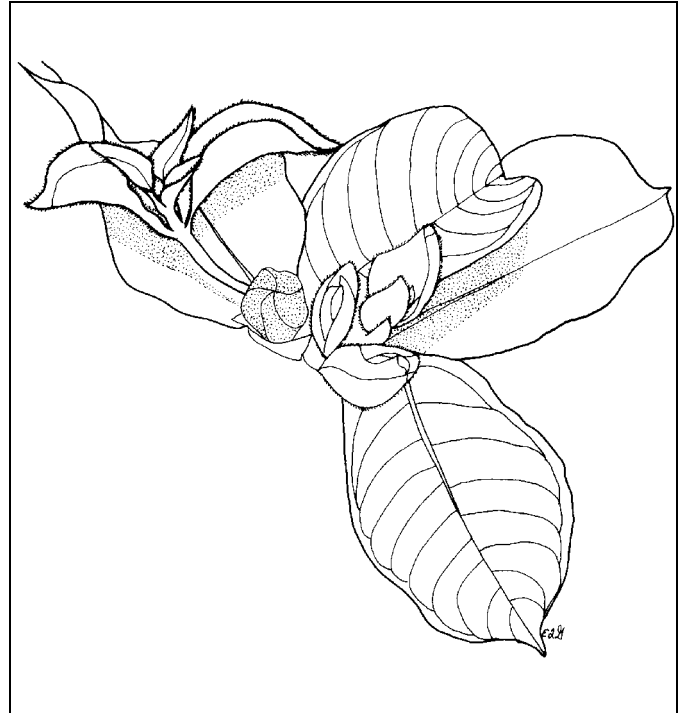


Figure 1. Yellow Allamanda.

Uses: container or above-ground planter; ground cover; cascading down a wall; hanging basket

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-29, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Plant habit: spreading
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: fast
Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: oblong
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristic: year-round flowering; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

Fruit shape: pod or pod-like
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: green
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full 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: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

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

Use and Management

Requiring full sun locations for best flowering (some flowers are produced in locations receiving only three to four hours of sun), Yellow Allamanda is tolerant of various soil types and requires only moderate moisture. All parts of the plant are poisonous and should be used with caution in areas frequented by young children.

Cultivars are available for floral variation and compact growth habit. The cultivar 'Williamsii' has a yellow flower with a brown throat; 'Stanstill's Double' has double yellow flowers; 'Henderson' or 'Brown Bud' have darker green leaves and five-inch wide flowers.

Propagation is by cutting or by division of the many sprouts which appear at the base of the main plant.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Yellow Allamanda is only occasionally bothered by caterpillars or mites.