Galphimia glauca¹

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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 topicary, 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: *Malpighiaceae* 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

Availablity: somewhat available, may have to go out of the

region to find the plant

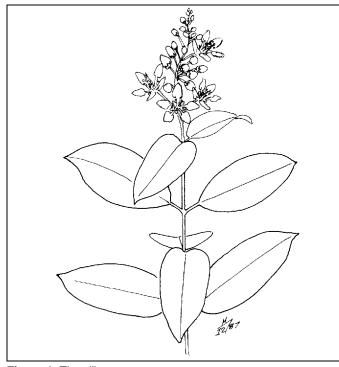


Figure 1. Thryallis.

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.