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Willow-leaved Cestrum

Cestrum parqui

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Green Cestrum, Willow-leaved Jessamine

Description:

This stunning shrub behaves like a perennial in colder zones; masses of yellow flowers above narrow, willow-like leaves from early summer until fall; plant in sheltered area of the garden or along borders; may re-sprout from roots after a hard freeze

Ornamental Features

Willow-leaved Cestrum features showy clusters of fragrant yellow tubular flowers with gold overtones at the ends of the branches from late spring to mid fall. Its pointy leaves emerge green in spring, turning bluish-green in color the rest of the year. It produces black berries from late summer to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Willow-leaved Cestrum is a dense multi-stemmed annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Willow-leaved Cestrum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Willow-leaved Cestrum flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Willow-leaved Cestrum will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

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