





Hypericum prolificum

Shrubby St. John's-wort

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



The bright flowers of this compact, native* shrub lack nectar, but its showy, pollen-covered stamens draw numerous native bees. This easy-to-grow species is attractive to gardeners due to its adaptability. It can thrive in a variety of soil types and tolerates heat, drought, soil compaction, flooding, and Black Walnut as well as predation by deer.

Shrub	Foliage, Flowers, June Shrub, November Fruit
Height: 1–5 feet	 
Spread: 1–4 feet	
Bloom Color: Yellow	 
Characteristics	
Compact, dense, rounded, deciduous shrub	
Opposite or whorled , lanceolate , dark green leaves 2–3" long; sessile or with short petiole	
1-inch, 5- petaled bright yellow flowers with numerous stamens in terminal or axillary cymes June to August	
Ovoid capsules with persistent styles split to release black seeds July to November; persist all winter	
Stems become woody with age & bark exfoliates	
Spreads by seed (& some sources say rhizomes)	
Attributes	
Tolerates heat, drought, soil compaction, dry soil, flooding, wide variety of soils, Black Walnut; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage due to toxic chemical hypericin	
Can cause contact dermatitis; skin contact with sap or ingestion of leaves can cause photosensitivity	
Attracts native bees & syrphid flies to flowers and birds to seeds; larval host for ~23 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Well-drained soil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> - Bush Cinquefoil
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Rosa</i> ‘Knock Out’ - Yellow Knock Out Rose
Water Requirements : Moist	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> - Japanese Spiraea
Blooming is more profuse in full sun; blooms on new wood; prune in early spring	<i>Syringa meyeri</i> – Korean Lilac <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> - Common Lilac
Use in shrub border, as hedge, or to stabilize slopes	*It is present in DC, in MD (mostly in Montgomery County), and throughout PA. It is not native to DE. In VA, it is frequent in the mountains and Piedmont and infrequent to rare in the Coastal Plain. In NoVA, it is not reported in Arlington County.
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3a–8b	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free (foliage, fruit) and Elaine Mills (flowers, shrub), Master Gardener Tribute Garden



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