

# Hypericum prolificum

## Shrubby St. John's-wort

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.

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic



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Shrub	Foliage, Flowers, June Shrub, November Fruit
Height: 1–5 feet	
Spread: 1–4 feet	
Bloom Color: Yellow	
Characteristics	<p>Compact, dense, rounded, <a href="#">deciduous</a> shrub</p> <p><a href="#">Opposite</a> or <a href="#">whorled</a>, <a href="#">lanceolate</a>, dark green leaves 2–3" long; <a href="#">sessile</a> or with short <a href="#">petiole</a></p> <p>1-inch, 5-petaled bright yellow flowers with numerous stamens in terminal or axillary <a href="#">cymes</a> June to August</p> <p><a href="#">Ovoid capsules</a> with <a href="#">persistent styles</a> split to release black seeds July to November; persist all winter</p> <p><a href="#">Stems</a> become woody with age &amp; <a href="#">bark</a> exfoliates</p> <p>Spreads by seed (&amp; some sources say <a href="#">rhizomes</a>)</p>
Attributes	<p>Tolerates heat, drought, soil compaction, dry soil, flooding, wide variety of soils, Black Walnut; no serious pests or diseases; <a href="#">deer</a> seldom severely damage due to toxic chemical hypericin</p> <p>Can cause contact dermatitis; skin contact with sap or ingestion of leaves can cause photosensitivity</p> <p>Attracts native bees &amp; syrphid flies to flowers and birds to seeds; <a href="#">larval</a> host for ~23 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a></p>
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Well-drained soil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> - Bush Cinquefoil
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Rosa 'Knock Out'</i> - Yellow Knock Out Rose
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : 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 <a href="#">native</a> 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.
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : 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 Gardner Tribute Garden



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