



TECOMA STANS YELLOW BELLS

SHRUB

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: Yellow Bells blooms all summer long with glorious clusters of large yellow flowers. Even when not in bloom, the rich green foliage is a welcome addition to desert gardens.

DESCRIPTION: *Tecoma stans* is an evergreen shrub to 6-15 feet tall and 6-10 feet wide. Typically the plant is taller than it is wide, and grows larger in frost free areas than it will in locations where frosts can occur. For example, in Tucson this plant may grow to 8-9 feet tall, while in Phoenix it might reach a height of 15 feet. Its rich green leaves are divided into 5-13 leaflets. These leaflets are 1.5-4 inches long and 0.75-2 inches wide. The bright yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers are about 2 inches long and 2 inches wide, and occur in large clusters. Flowering can begin as early as April and continue into fall. Flowering will start later and stop earlier in places where frost occurs. The flowers are followed by 6-inch-long, tan pods that are filled with small, papery winged seeds.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: *Tecoma stans* suffers some minor frost damage when the temperatures drop into the high 20's F. In the low 20's F, major damage and even total death can occur, although this is rare if the plant is well established. Some frost damage can even be beneficial, as the new spring growth provides has increased flower production. Yellow Bells has a fast growth rate, and is moderately drought tolerant once established. For best results, plant in full sun or reflected sun, and in a soil with good drainage. Frost damaged areas should be pruned out in late winter or early spring.

IDENTIFICATION: There are two varieties of *Tecoma stans*. The first variety, *Tecoma stans* var. *stans*, is from subtropical and tropical regions of the Americas. The other variety is *Tecoma stans* var. *angustata*, which is native to southern Arizona, Texas, and northern Mexico. The variety *stans* has larger, leaves and is less hardy than the variety *angustata*, which has narrower leaves. Both varieties are easily distinguished from other *Tecoma* species by the yellow flower color.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: The subtropical appearance created by the lush foliage and showy flowers allow *Tecoma stans* to be used as a patio or poolside plant, although be aware that its seed pods are rather messy. It can be used alone as a colorful accent, or massed for a knockout flower display. The flowers attract hummingbirds, so Yellow Bells makes a great addition to a bird attracting garden. Use it with large accent plants that will carry an area through the winter if the Yellow Bells are frozen back.



PRECAUTIONS:

Tecoma stans is not susceptible to any insect pests or fungal diseases. This plant is frost sensitive and may be browsed by wildlife, but it is generally regarded as a low maintenance, easy care species.

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Below: Close up of the flowers of *Tecoma stans* var. *angustata*.



AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	6-15 feet x 6-10 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Spring through fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun, reflected heat
WATER	Low to moderate
GROWTH RATE	Fast
HARDINESS	var. <i>angustata</i> 0° F USDA 7 var. <i>stans</i> 15° F USDA 8
PRUNING	Prune out frozen stems in late winter or early spring
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Tucson, Phoenix, Palm Desert, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, West Texas

For more information, call: (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509
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SHRUBS