

Gelsemium sempervirens Carolina or Yellow Jessamine

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

The fragrant, yellow bells of Carolina Jessamine are a sure sign of spring. A profusion of flowers appears for several months, and the glossy, pointed leaves remain attractive all year. This native is at home in the U.S. southeastern and Gulf states south to Honduras. It is South Carolina's state flower.



Vine	Vine on Arbor, Flowers, Fall and Winter Fruit	
Height: 10–20 feet		
Spread: 3–6 feet		
Bloom Color: Yellow		
Characteristics		
Climbing, twining , reddish- stemmed evergreen vine		
Opposite , lanceolate to elliptic , glossy leaves		
Fragrant, long-lasting, 5-fused- petaled , trumpet-shaped solitary flower or 2–5 flowered cymes in early spring		
Thin, flattened fruit capsules persist into winter		
Bronzy to purple patina on leaves in winter		
Attributes		
Tolerates clay soil , some drought, and wind; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage		
Bloom can start as early as February, with later brief rebloom in early fall		
All parts highly toxic (to humans/livestock/pets) if eaten; sap may irritate skin in sensitive individuals		
Attracts bees—nectar, if gathered in large quantities, may be toxic to honey bees (University of Florida)—butterflies, and hummers; provides cover for birds		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements : Humus-rich, well-drained	Akebia quinata - Chocolate Vine	
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Celastrus orbiculatus - Oriental Bittersweet	
Water Requirements : Moist	Clematis terniflora - Sweet Autumn Clematis	
Best flower production in sun; prune after flowering	Jasminum dichotomum , J. fluminense - Jasmine	
Use as a climber on arbors, fences, walls, and near entries or patios; use as a rambler in containers or as ground cover for slopes and banks	Lonicera japonica - Japanese Honeysuckle	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 7a–10b	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native only in VA where it is common in the southern and central Coastal Plain and rare in the adjacent outer Piedmont. It is not native to NoVA.	
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>		

Images by Mary Free, Glencarlyn Library Community Garden