

Italian or Primrose Jasmine

(*Jasminum mesnyi*)

Native Range: Western China

Sun/Shade: Full sun to moderate shade.

Flowers: Covered in bright yellow flowers in early spring/ late winter. One of the first spring bloomers. Very noticeable.

Landscape Use: This large cascading shrub is a very dependable, tough landscape plant. It is used by the Highway Department on 1604 and Bandera road and is also seen along Scenic Loop road and many other places. It gets very large and spreads, so make sure you have enough room. It can be controlled but by cutting out old canes from the base, but few people seem to do it. Plant it for its dark green healthy foliage as well as the pretty early spring flowers, but remember that it will easily reach 6' feet tall and wide.

Container Use: Can make beautiful greenery, but as it gets larger and more root-bound it will be tough to keep watered. Choose a large pot then plant out in the ground. Repeat the process if you like.

Size: 6'to 10' tall and wide.

Type: Evergreen flowering shrub.

Deer Resistance: Very Deer Resistant.

Drought Tolerance: Very drought tolerant but looks best with occasional watering.

Soil: Not particular about soil as long as it drains well and does not remain constantly wet. Does well in rocky soil or even better with soil enhancement.

Water: Smart Watering Principle=Water well when first planted then allow to dry slightly, without wilting, then water deeply again, etc. Easy Watering Principle= Water every day the first week; every second day the second week; every third day the third week; every fourth day the fourth week; every fifth day the fifth week. A soaking rainfall should last for about two weeks worth of watering. Do not keep constantly wet.

Fertilizer: Looks even better with regular fertilization.

Maintenance Tips: This shrub does not look good formally trimmed. Control its spread by removing older or unwanted growth from the base or keep it thinned out to make it more manageable. You can also cut it back to the ground if it really gets out of hand and then thin it out or remove portions. Or better yet, just let it grow in a spot where it has plenty of room and leave it alone.

Rating: Rates high as a landscape plant.

Pictures: See the plant picture book in the appropriate section.