

# 黃時鐘花

## Turnera ulmifolia

### 科屬及分布

#### Family and Distribution

黃時鐘花(學名*Turnera ulmifolia*)，又名午時花或金寶花，隸屬時鐘花科(Turneraceae)時鐘花屬(*Turnera*)，是多年生宿根灌木草本植物，原產於墨西哥、熱帶美洲及西印度羣島，現已在全球熱帶及亞熱帶地區歸化。

*Turnera ulmifolia*, commonly known as Yellow Alder, Ramgoat Dashedong, Sage Rose or West Indian Holly, is a shrubby, herbaceous perennial of the genus *Turnera* in the Turneraceae family. Native to Mexico, tropical America and the West Indies, the plant is widely naturalised in tropical and subtropical regions around the world.

### 形態及特徵

#### Form and Characteristics

黃時鐘花株型直立，高可達1米。葉片長約5至10厘米，長卵形，先端急尖，鋸齒緣，表面蒼翠亮澤，底部顏色較淺；單葉互生，葉柄短，葉脈深，故葉片看似皺縮。葉基有一對明顯腺體。花單生於葉腋；花冠金黃色，直徑約5厘米，花瓣5片。黃時鐘花由春至秋每天皆開花，延續不斷，在部分地區更幾乎全年開花。花朵早上綻放，至午間凋謝，在部分地區因環境氣候條件不同，開花時間較長。每朵花一般能結一圓形朔果，果實長約0.8厘米，成熟時3瓣開裂，內有許多褐色種子。

Yellow Alder is an erect plant that stands up to 1 m tall. Its single alternate leaves, about 5 to 10 cm long, are long-ovate with an acute apex, a serrate margin and a short petiole, glossy and verdant on the upper surface and paler on the underside. The veins are deep, accounting for the leaves' wrinkled appearance. A pair of distinct glands can be found at the base of each leaf. The solitary flower growing at the axil has a brilliant yellow, 5-petalled corolla of about 5 cm across. The plant flowers every day from spring to autumn, or even all year round in certain areas. The blossoms open in the morning and fade in the afternoon, though they may enjoy a longer blooming time in some places where the environment and climate allow. Each flower usually develops into a round capsule of around 0.8 cm in length, which splits into thirds when mature to release the numerous brown seeds within.

### 生長習性及護理

#### Growth Habits and Care

黃時鐘花生性強健耐熱，生長適溫為22℃至32℃，喜歡溫暖、全日照的環境，也能適應半遮陰的環境，但開花數量會受影響。黃時鐘花不耐霜凍，若遇嚴寒天氣，地上部會枯萎越冬，春暖再生長。

黃時鐘花對土壤要求不高，如土壤豐富腐殖質且排水良好，或腐砂質，植株能生長得更加茂盛。黃時鐘花耐旱，不以盆種而直接栽於地上，澆水不多也能生長。如以盆種，植料過濕或排水不良會令植株生長欠佳，甚至根部腐爛，終致枯萎。

定時摘心去頂，可促進分枝，塑造理想株型。如植株老化，可在冬季或初春強剪一次，刺激植株復茂盛，修剪後補充適量肥料，能促進新枝萌發；生長期每月施肥一次，以補充肥力，令植株健康生長，有利開花。果實成熟時會自然爆裂，種子散落四周，當條件合適便會長成新的植株。

The resilient and heat-tolerant Yellow Alder has an optimum growth temperature of 22°C to 32°C and thrives in a warm climate with full sun. The plant can also cope with partial shade, though it may affect the extent of flowering. In severe cold, the above-ground parts of the frost-intolerant plant wither; new shoots emerge as temperature rises in spring.

Not particularly about soil, Yellow Alder grows well in humus-rich, well-drained soil or sandy soil. Being drought-tolerant, the plant can be grown on the ground without a pot and get by with little watering. When potted, the plant will grow poorly if the growing medium is soggy or waterlogged; it may have rotten roots and end up withering.

Yellow Alder should be pinched from time to time to promote shoot growth and keep the plant shapely. Aged plants can benefit from heavy pruning once a year in winter or early spring, which can help resume vigorous growth, followed by moderate fertilising to induce new shoots. During its growth period, fertilise monthly to keep the growing medium fertile and encourage healthy plant growth as well as profuse flowering. The fruits split upon maturation, scattering the seeds which will grow into new plants when conditions are favourable.

### 繁殖

#### Propagation

黃時鐘花多以種子繁殖，播種宜在春季進行。種子的發芽適溫為20℃至28℃，由於種子有嫌光性，播種後要以薄土覆蓋，保持植料濕潤，7至10天後種子便會發芽。此時可將育苗盆移到較明亮處接受柔光照射，待幼苗長出4至6片葉，便可移植。

除播種外，黃時鐘花也可以頂蘗扦插繁殖。扦插可於春、秋兩季進行。扦插介質以透氣及排水良好的乾淨砂質土壤為佳。扦插時應選取不帶花芽的健壯枝條作插穗，每根插穗應長約10至12.5厘米，最少有3至4個節，節與節之間的距離宜短，除頂端3至4塊葉片外摘掉其餘葉片，然後將插穗下方三分之一至二分之一插入培植土壤。澆透水後把插穗置於半遮陰處，溫度保持在20℃至24℃，約一星期後再移到較明亮處接受柔光照射，其間必須保持植料濕潤。插穗約3星期後發根，待根部生長旺盛便可移植。

Yellow Alder is largely propagated by seeds and best sown in spring. The optimum temperature for germination is between 20°C and 28°C. The seeds are light-inhibited and should be covered with a thin layer of soil after being sown. Keep the growing medium moist and the seeds will germinate in 7 to 10 days. The nursery tray can then be relocated to a brighter area under subdued light. The seedlings are ready for transplant as soon as 4 to 6 young leaves have emerged.

Apart from seed sowing, soft tip cutting is also used for propagating Yellow Alder. Cutting can be carried out in spring or autumn. The rooting medium should preferably be well-aerated, properly drained and clean sandy soil. Select healthy and sturdy soft tips without flower buds as cuttings, each of which should be 10 to 12.5 cm long with at least 3 to 4 nodes and preferably short internodes. Strip all but the top 3 to 4 leaves and insert the bottom one-third to half of the cuttings into the medium. Water the mixture thoroughly, then leave the cuttings in a partially shaded place at a constant temperature of 20°C to 24°C for around one week before moving them to a brighter area under subdued light. Keep the medium moist throughout the period. Roots will develop in about 3 weeks and cuttings with vigorous root development can be transplanted for establishment.

### 防治病蟲害

#### Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

黃時鐘花間中會受粉蝨、介殼蟲、蚜蟲或毛蟲侵襲，如發現蟲害，應立即除去受影響部分或把肉眼看到的蟲移去，並施用有效除蟲劑。要讓植株健康生長，應保持盆栽土壤排水良好，避免過量澆水，並應適量施肥，定期鬆土除草，同時確保生長空間及光照充足，保持種植環境清潔通風。

Yellow Alder occasionally falls prey to whiteflies, scale insects, aphids and caterpillars. In case of infestation, remove the infected parts or visible pests and apply effective insecticide immediately. To ensure healthy growth, keep the soil well-drained and avoid over-watering. Apply an appropriate amount of fertiliser. Loosen the soil and weed regularly. Ensure sufficient light and space for the plant and keep the growing environment clean and well-ventilated.

### 園藝應用及經濟價值

#### Horticultural Application and Economic Value

黃時鐘花色彩豔麗，葉片蒼翠亮澤，株型整齊，花葉繁茂，適合庭園觀賞，常用作園邊植物，亦宜用於花壇、花園和吊籃栽培。

With its bold flowers, glossy verdant leaves, shapely and luxuriant growth, Yellow Alder makes an excellent ornamental plant for gardens and a common edging plant. It is also suitable for floral displays, flower beds and hanging baskets.



### 一般護理

#### General Maintenance

繁殖及護理 Propagation and care	
最適合溫度 Optimum temperature	發芽 Germination 20°C - 28°C 生長 Growth 22°C - 32°C
泥土酸鹼值 pH value	pH 5.8 - 6.2
繁殖 Propagation	播種 Seed sowing 頂蘗扦插 Soft tip cutting

	春 Spring	夏 Summer	秋 Autumn	冬 Winter
日照 Sunlight				
澆水 Watering				
施肥 Fertilising				
換盆 Re-potting				

#### 圖例 Key

	日照充足 Abundant sunlight
	少許 Little
	中等 Medium

### 黃時鐘花的生長過程

#### The Course of Growth of Yellow Alder

種子 Seeds

幼苗 Seedlings

定植 Potting Up

結蕾 Bud Formation

開花 Blooming

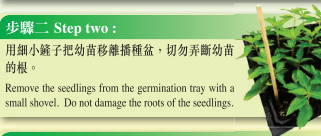
### 移植幼苗

#### Transplanting Seedlings

#### 步驟一 Step one :



Fill the pots with potting mix up to half inch from the top rim. Organic matter or slow-release chemical fertilisers may be added to the potting mix as a base fertiliser to support plant growth.



Remove the seedlings from the germination tray with a small shovel. Do not damage the roots of the seedlings.

#### 步驟二 Step two :

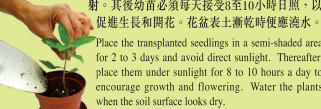
用細小鏟子把幼苗移離播種盆，切勿弄斷幼苗的根。

Remove the seedlings from the germination tray with a small shovel. Do not damage the roots of the seedlings.



the seedling in the hole and fill the hole with potting mix. Flatten the potting mix by pressing gently until it comes into contact with the root ball. Do not damage the roots of the seedling.

After transplanting, remember to water the plant immediately. Pinching growing tips promotes the growth of more lateral buds and flowers.



Place the transplanted seedlings in a semi-shaded area for 2 to 3 days and avoid direct sunlight. Thereafter, place them under sunlight for 8 to 10 hours a day to encourage growth and flowering. Water the plants when the soil surface looks dry.

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