

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Jockey Club “One Person, One Flower” Scheme
2017/18

Yellow Alder
Turnera ulmifolia

Yellow Alder

Scientific Name: *Turnera ulmifolia*

Common Names: Yellow Alder, Ramgoat Dashalong,
Sage Rose and West Indian Holly

Family : Turneraceae

Genus: *Turnera*

Places of Origin: Mexico, tropical America and the
West Indies

Distribution : Tropical and subtropical regions around
the world

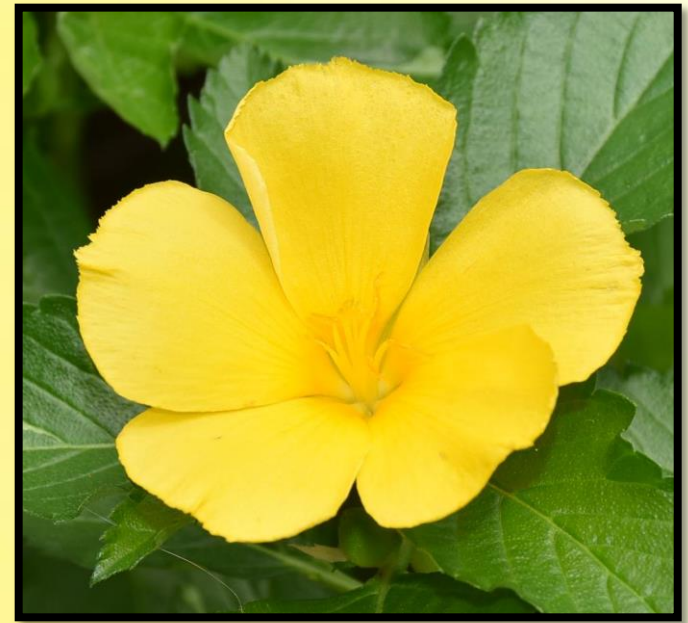


Form and Characteristics

Flower Colour: Brilliant yellow

Flowering Period: The plant flowers every day from spring to autumn, or even all year round in certain areas.

Characteristics: 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.



Form and Characteristics



- A shrubby, herbaceous perennial
- An erect plant that stands up to 1 m tall.
- Its single alternate leaves are long-ovate with a serrate margin, 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.

Form and Characteristics

- The solitary flower growing at the axil has a 5-petalled corolla of about 5 cm across.
- Each flower usually develops into a round capsule, which splits into thirds when mature to release the numerous brown seeds within.



Growth Habits



- Yellow Alder has an optimum growth temperature of 22°C to 32°C and thrives in a warm climate with full sun.
- It can also cope with partial shade, though that 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.

Growth Habits



- Not particular 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, it will grow poorly if the growing medium is soggy or waterlogged; it may have rotten roots and end up withering.

Plant Care



- 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.
- Apply fertiliser moderately after pruning to induce new shoots.
- During its growth period, fertilise monthly to keep the growing medium fertile.

Propagation – Seed Sowing

- Yellow Alder is largely propagated by seeds and best sown in spring.
- The optimum temperature for germination is between 20°C and 28°C.
- 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.
- The fruits split upon maturation, scattering the seeds which will grow into new plants when conditions are favourable.

Growing Medium for Seed Sowing

A. Peat, Vermiculite, Perlite (1 : 1 : 1)

B. Subsoil, Peat, River sand (1 : 1 : 1)



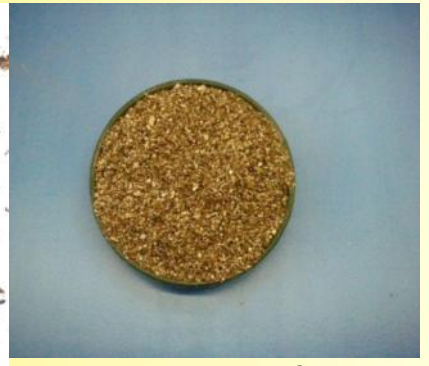
River sand



Perlite



Peat



Vermiculite

Propagation – Soft Tip Cutting

- 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 cutting should be 10 to 12.5 cm long with at least 3 to 4 nodes and preferably short internodes.



Propagation – Soft Tip Cutting

- 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 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.

Growing Medium for Potting

- A. Black topsoil, Peat, Subsoil (2 : 1 : 1)
- B. Peat, Perlite, Vermiculite (1 : 1 : 1)
- C. Subsoil, Peat, Perlite (2 : 1 : 1)
- D. Subsoil, Peat, Vermiculite (2 : 1 : 1)



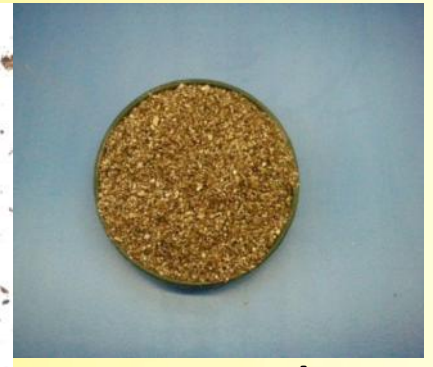
River sand



Perlite



Peat



Vermiculite

Handling of Seedlings

Potting up

- The seedlings are ready for transplant after 4 to 6 true leaves have emerged.
- Consider pinching growing tips to promote the growth of more lateral buds.
- Transplant 3 seedlings into a pot with a diameter of 13 cm for long-term planting.
- Water the plant immediately after transplanting.



Handling of Seedlings

Watering

- Soil with adequate moisture is essential for healthy root growth in a newly repotted or transplanted plant.
- Once the plant is established, it requires little fertiliser and water.
- Keep the growing medium well-drained.
- Soggy or waterlogged soil will result in poor growth and even root rot.
- Water the plant when the soil surface looks dry.



Handling of Seedlings



Light and temperature

- Keep the transplanted seedlings in a semi-shaded place for 2 to 3 days to protect them from direct sunlight.
- Abundant sunlight is required for exuberant growth.
- Place the seedlings under sunlight for 8 to 10 hours a day to encourage growth and flowering.
- Optimum growth temperature is 22°C to 32°C.



Fertilising

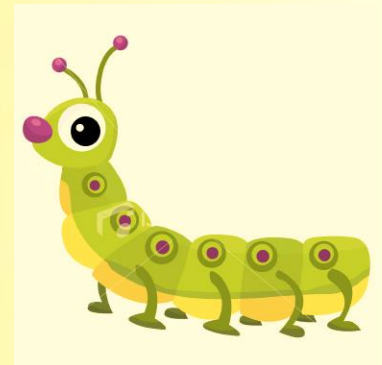
- When potting up or repotting seedlings, slow-release fertilisers containing greater proportions of nitrogen and phosphorus may be used as a base fertiliser.
- Apply fertiliser once every month during the growth period. Frequent light applications are preferred.
- Application of fertiliser in an appropriate amount after pruning can encourage healthy plant growth.

Fertilising

- Use fertilisers containing nitrogen(N), phosphorous(P) and potassium(K) (Fast-release fertilisers).
- Avoid excessive use of nitrogen fertiliser (which stimulates leaf growth) as it will lead to the overgrowth of stems and leaves and hamper flowering. The branches, becoming too tall and soft, may easily topple.

Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

- 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.
- 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.
- Keep the growing environment clean and well-ventilated.



Horticultural Application


- Garden
- Edging plant
- Floral display
- Flower bed
- Hanging basket



Points to Note



- As the fruits split upon maturation, it is advisable to pluck or snip the browned fruits before they split. This will prevent the seeds from spreading all over.
- Aged plants can benefit from heavy pruning once a year in winter or early spring, followed by moderate fertilising to induce new shoots.



The information leaflet, planting demonstration and presentation materials on Yellow Alder will be uploaded to the following web page in due course:

[http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/green/education/
greeningschool/one.html](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/green/education/greeningschool/one.html)