

Allamanda cathartica

Allamanda is an evergreen, vigorous, perennial, woody compact or creeping shrub belonging to the family Apocynaceae. *Allamanda* is commonly known as Yellow Bell or Golden Trumpet. They are native to South and Central America. *Allamanda* is fast growing, easy to grow and maintain, and adds colour to any landscape in no time. There are about 15 species of *Allamanda*. Amongst these, three species viz. *Allamanda cathartica* (Golden trumpet), *Allamanda blanchetii* syn. *A. violacea* (Violet Allamanda) and *Allamanda schottii* (Bush Allamanda) are popular in horticultural trade. Flowers of *Allamanda* resembles trumpets and bells. The stems contain milky sap. Leaves are leathery, yellow-green to dark green and grow in whorls of two or four. They are lance-shaped, or ovoid. Flowers are bright, large, fragrant, trumpet-shaped, and in shades of yellow, white, cream, pink, or orange colours based on the species or cultivar. Flowers have five broad overlapping petals that spread outwardly. Both single and double flower forms are available in *Allamanda* and blooms mainly during summer and monsoon. Flower clusters appear at the tip of new shoots or in the leaf axils.

Climate and Soil

Since *Allamanda* is a light-demanding plant, it should be planted only in open places where plenty of sunlight is available. They prefer slightly acidic soils with good drainage. Since these plants require good amount of water during the growing period, they can bloom heavily even in the lawns, where enough moisture is available.

Propagation

Allamanda plants can easily be propagated by stem-tip cuttings. Four to five inches long semi-hard stem cuttings from fresh growth are used for propagation. Cuttings should have at least three or four fully formed leaves at the tip. The cuttings will root within two to four weeks, and will be ready for transplanting

Pruning

Because of their rapid growth, it requires frequent pruning. Plants can be cut back in the spring just before the growth resumes, to have more flowering. Allamanda when used as hedge, continuous pruning is required to maintain the shape and compactness.

Uses

It is suitable for planting in open areas in a garden. They are used for various purposes as flowerbeds, ground covers, garden hedges, container plants, climbing shrubs etc. Climbing species can be trained on low walls and trellises. *Allamanda* is a favourite choice in gardens of warm regions because of its year-long production of flowers in striking hues.