



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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- Botanical Name: *Tecoma stans*
- Common Name: Gold Star Esperanza, Yellow Bells, Yellow Elder
- Plant Family: Acanthaceae
- Mature Size: 6 ft.
- Growth Habit: Upright Bush
- Bloom Color: Yellow
- Bloom Form: Trumpet
- Bloom Time: Summer to Late Fall
- Water Needs: Moderate
- Light Needs: Full Sun
- Recommended Zones: 9, 10, 11
- Key Features: Bright Yellow Flowers, Butterfly Attractant, Drought Tolerant
- Suggested Uses: Mixed Perennials, Butterfly Hummingbird Garden, Deer Resistant
- Growers Notes : Once established, Texas Star can tolerate intense heat and drought



***Tecoma stans* or Gold Star Esperanza** is a showstopping perennial that is known for both its long lasting, vibrant flowers and butterfly attractant qualities. These plants are adorned with clusters of trumpet shaped bright yellow flowers from April to November in warm climates and add interest when not blooming with interesting serrated leaves. Nectar rich yellow blooms serve as an attractant to butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. Plant Yellow Bells in butterfly gardens to provide nectar well into Late Fall when many other plants are no longer blooming. During the hottest parts of the year Gold Star Esperanza remains rigid, refusing to wilt even when other zone hardy plants appear stressed. These heat tolerant qualities and early bloom time have led this selected cultivar to win the Texas Superstar Award.

Gold Star Esperanza grows to a large bush when allowed to grow freely, topping out at 8 feet in nature. These plants can be grown successfully as potted ornamentals, though they will need a large pot to thrive. Cold hardy to zone 9, Gold Star will need to be protected from frost and freeze and can be successfully overwintered indoors with supplemental light.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new Gold Star Esperanza follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun or partial shade
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.

Care of Your New Plant Butterfly Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Please note that we are a fully licensed and certified commercial mail order nursery, and as such are required by law to treat all plants immediately prior to shipping to assure that we do not inadvertently transfer pests or disease into other states. Generally, we use short acting products such as Neem Oil that will protect the plant for 7 to 14 days at most, and can be washed away with soap and water. However, we recommend that all serious butterfly enthusiasts quarantine all plants from any source for a 30 day period before introducing them into the habitat.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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Ornamental Plants sold by Emerald Goddess Gardens are intended for use as ornamental decorative items only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend or endorse any other use.