

Allamanda bolivinensis Bolivian Allamanda¹

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Introduction

This evergreen, spreading and climbing vine is covered with vivid white, trumpet-shaped blooms up to 5 inches across (Figure 1). The throat of each flower is deep yellow. The dark green, glossy leaves are produced on slender, green, twining stems which become woody with age. Blooming during the warm months of the year, Allamanda should only be planted in frost-free locations, although it could be grown as an annual in colder climates due to its rapid growth rate.

General Information

Scientific name: *Allamanda bolivinensis*

Pronunciation: al-luh-MAN-duh bo-liv-vin-NEN-sis

Common name(s): Bolivian Allamanda

Family: *Apocynaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; ground cover; cascading down a wall; hanging basket

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

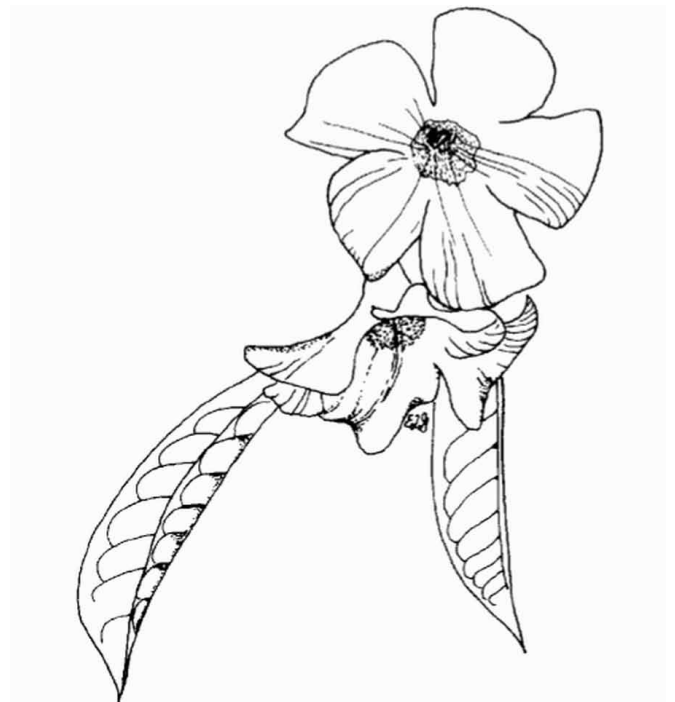


Figure 1. Bolivian Allamanda.

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: oblong

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white

Flower characteristic: year-round flowering; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

Fruit shape: pod or pod-like

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: green

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: alkaline; acidic; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerance: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

The erect sprawling growth habit makes it ideal for quick coverage of trellises, arbors, or on a tree trunk. Many people use it to cover the base of a mail box or pole. Allamanda will cascade over a retaining wall and makes a nice hanging basket. Rapid growth creates a sprawling form with individual shoots growing alone, away from the rest of the plant. Regular pinching will keep the plant in bounds, but too much pinching removes flower buds which form on new growth.

Requiring full sun locations for best flowering (some flowers are produced in locations receiving only 3 to 4 hours of sun), Allamanda is tolerant of various soil types and requires only moderate moisture. Regular, light fertilization during the growing season helps promote growth and flowering.

Pests and Diseases

A witches broom can deform Allamanda. Mites can infest the foliage.