

***Hypericum* spp. St. John's Wort¹**

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Introduction

This low growing plant can be used on dry sites. The main ornamental trait is the three-inch yellow flowers that contrast with the dark green foliage. The plant can grow a foot tall and can spread 1½ feet. There may be some top kill in winter in cold climate.



Figure 1. Full Form—*Hypericum* spp.: St. John's wort.
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Flower—*Hypericum* spp.: St. John's wort.
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General Information

Scientific name: *Hypericum* spp.

Pronunciation: hye-PAIR-rick-um species

Common name(s): St. John's wort

Family: *Clusiaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 10A (Figure 3)

Planting month for zone 7: year-round

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Planting month for zone 8: year-round

Planting month for zone 9: year-round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year-round

Origin: native to Florida

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Uses: foundation; border; mass planting; edging

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

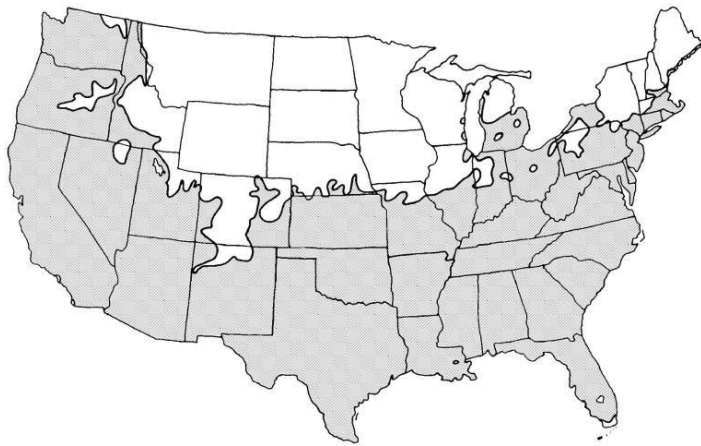


Figure 3. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 1 to 4 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: oblanceolate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristic: summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: irregular

Fruit length: less than 0.5 inch

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristic: showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically, multitrunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: sand; occasionally wet; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

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

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests