PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Forsythia suspensa* (Thunb.) Vahl.

**GENUS** *Forsythia* **FAMILY** Oleaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Golden Bells, Weeping Forsythia

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves

The leaves are eaten with oil and salt.

## DESCRIPTION

A lax shrub. It can grow to 3 m tall when trained on a wall. It loses its leaves during the year. The branches are slender and arching. They are yellow-brown. The internodes are hollow. The leaves are simple but can also have 3 divisions. The leaf stalk is 0.8-1.5 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 2-10 cm long by 1.5-5 cm wide. There are teeth along the edge. There are one or sometimes 2 or more flowers in the axils of leaves. The flowers are golden. They have narrow petals. The flowers hang downwards. The fruit is a capsule which is oval and 1.2-2.5 cm long by 6-7 mm wide. The stalk is 0.7-1.5 cm long.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in thickets or grassy areas on slopes between 300-2200 m altitude in China. It can grow in sun or part shade. It suits hardiness zones 4-9.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed. The seed need 60 days of cold treatment. It can also be grown by greenwood cuttings.

## NOTES

It is used in medicine. There are about 7-11 Forsythia species. There are also hybrids between species. The leaf contains a glucoside, phyllyrin.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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