



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Yellow Orchid Vine or Matanei *Callaeum macropterum*

**DESCRIPTION:** Also known as *Mascagnia macroptera*, Yellow Orchid Vine is native to Baja California and much of mainland Mexico. This twining vine may quickly attain a spread of 30 feet. Bright yellow flowers are about an inch across, and are produced in the spring and fall. The spring flowering does not occur if plants freeze to the ground in winter. This vine is notable for its conspicuous winged fruits to two inches across. During mild winters, it will remain in leaf. Many insects are attracted to the flowers, although bees are the primary pollinator.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Provides an excellent summer screen on a lattice or fence. It climbs by twining, and cannot cling to a wall.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Yellow Orchid Vine is hardy to about 20°F, and keeps its leaves to 30°F. It recovers rapidly even if frozen to the ground.



**Sun tolerance:** It will grow best in full sun. It does not perform as well in shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Moderate water use; water 1-2 times a week during the hottest months for vigorous growth. It will survive on rainfall but will lose leaves in very dry periods. Feed 1-2 times a growing season for increased performance.



**Soil requirements:** It will grow in almost any soil, but a well-drained soil is best.



**Pruning:** Remove frost-killed growth if desired. It can get aggressive and may need control pruning once or twice a season. Stems touching the ground can take root.