

Meadowlark Forsythia



Meadowlark Forsythia (*Forsythia* x 'Meadowlark')

General Description

A hybrid of Early Forsythia (*F. ovata*), native to Korea, and Albanian Forsythia (*F. europaea*), native to Europe. This is the hardiest of all forsythias evaluated at NDSU. Meadowlark forsythia, a cultivar introduced by North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University and the Arnold Arboretum in 1986, performs well in plantings throughout the Northern Plains. Showy yellow flowers. The largest shrub in North Dakota is 13 feet tall with a canopy spread of 15 feet.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Yellow-brown.

Bud Size - 1/8 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, ovate or broad ovate with an acute point.

Leaf Margins - Coarsely-toothed or entire with no serrations.

Leaf Surface - Smooth, leathery.

Leaf Length - 1½ to 3½ inches.

Leaf Width - 1 to 2 inches.

Leaf Color - Dark green; purple fall color.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Solitary, borne on short stalks, tubular.

Flower Color - Bright yellow.

Fruit Type - 2 celled dehiscent capsules with many seeds.

Fruit Color - Light green, ripen to tannish.

Form

Growth Habit - Rounded crown.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 6 to 11 feet.

Crown Width - 6 to 11 feet.

Root System - Fibrous, spreading.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Prefers clay to loam soils. Coarse textured, droughty soils should be avoided.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0. Not adapted to saline soils.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

Water

Avoid droughty or ponded sites.

Light

Full sun or light shade.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium to large shrub for farmstead windbreaks.

Wildlife

Dense shrub form provides cover to many wildlife species.

Agroforestry

No known products.

Urban/Recreational

Wide variety of uses in landscape due to its showy yellow flowers in early spring.

Cultivated Varieties

Other *Forsythia ovata* (Early F.) x *F. europaea* (Albanian F.) hybrids include:

Northern Gold Forsythia (*F.* x 'Northern Gold') - Canadian introduction.

Northern Sun Forsythia (*F.* x 'Northern Sun') - University of Minnesota introduction.

Related Species

Early Forsythia (*Forsythia ovata*)

Pests

No pest problems to date in North Dakota. No Forsythia is totally flower bud hardy every winter under Northern Plains conditions.