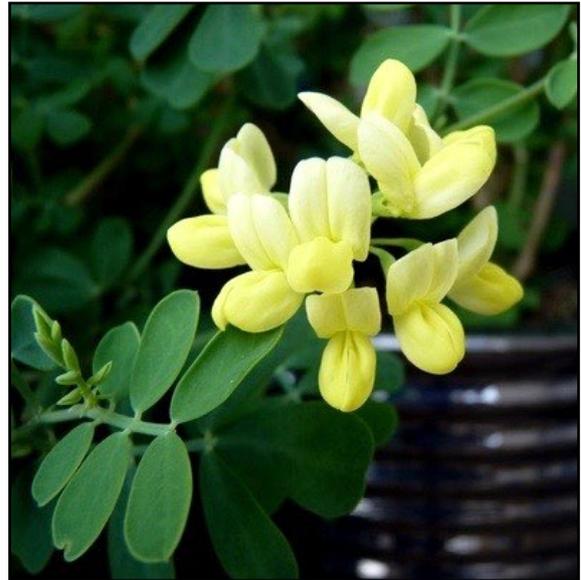


CORONILLA VALENTINA 'CITRINA'

Fran Pattinson

I wonder how many HPS members grow this yellow shrub? Some years ago our Southern Counties Group paid a visit to the garden of the botanical artist Jenny Jowett, in Berkshire, which is when I first noticed it.

The name of the shrub is *Coronilla valentina* ssp. *glauca* 'Citrina' and it has an AGM. It likes a warm, sunny, sheltered corner and seems to be reasonably easy to buy. There are three different forms, one of which has variegated evergreen leaves, which I personally do not like as I think the flowers disappear against the variegated leaves. The other two forms have plain green leaves which are also evergreen, but one has bright yellow flowers and the other form has pale lemon coloured flowers, which I prefer. It was also a favourite of Roy Cheek, Senior Lecturer at Cannington College in Somerset.



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I grow mine in a sunny border between two pairs of French windows, as the flowers are deliciously scented. They attract many favourable comments from friends and visitors. Another advantage is that the shrub will flower throughout the winter, although I must confess that now, in February, it is looking rather bedraggled after the recent spell of cold weather.

If there is any drawback to this shrub it is that it flowers almost continuously, and therefore it is difficult to know when to prune it. I find sometime between late May and July there is usually a lull in the flowering period and so I usually cut it back at that time. Afterwards I feed, water and mulch the shrub and within about three weeks the coronilla is beginning to flower again. With this regime I keep the shrub at about a maximum height of three feet.

If you are looking for an evergreen, long-flowering, beautiful, scented shrub, and can provide the right conditions, then why not plant a coronilla?

***C. valentina* 'Citrina' provides beautiful, scented cheer during colder months**